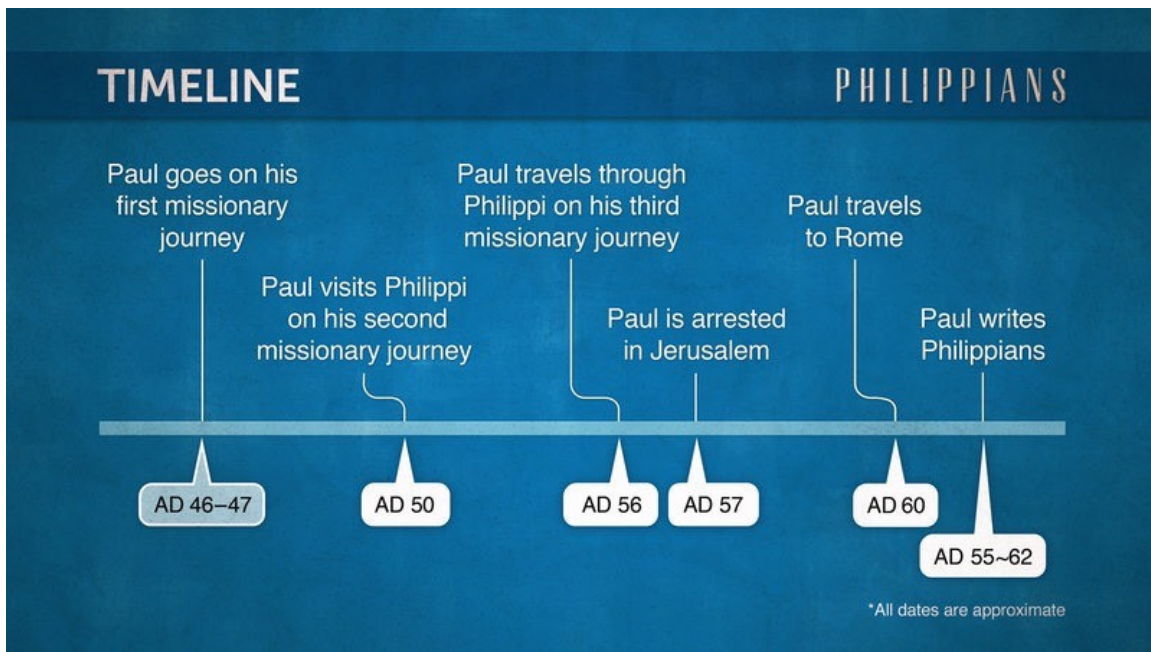


Radiant Church, May 21, 2017
Mike Rydman

Joy in Community Philippians 1:1-11



Philippi was the first church Paul founded in Europe (Macedonia.) The first convert there was Lydia, a businesswoman, and women continued to be prominent in that church. (Acts 16)



Paul wrote from prison (Rome) in response to a gift they had sent by Epaphroditus (a Philippian). But he really wrote to encourage them. Really, he wanted to encourage them to continue to make progress in their faith.

The world was/is too perilous

The gospel is too glorious to sit still and assume they had it figured out

Philippians 1:1-2 *Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

“saints” - holy ones

“overseers” - “episkopas” (Episcopal) elders, bishops

“deacons” - servants

The word Paul used for him and Timothy was more like “slaves”

“Grace” - Charis (chrisma, charismatic) Getting what you don’t deserve

“Peace” - with God, with each other, with your circumstances

Philippians 1:3-5 *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.*

“Thank” - eucharist (the Lord’s Supper, Communion is giving thanks)

“Joy” - Charas (root word related to grace - something that leads to “well being”

Can any of us have true, lasting joy if we do not see

God’s grace in our lives, in other people’s lives?

“partnership” - “koinonia” (fellowship, togetherness, unity of relationship/purpose)

Philippians 1:6-7 *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.*

“began” - where we get our word “energy”

“a good work” - where we get our word for “ergonomic”

“right” - “righteous for me to feel this way”

because you are in my heart

because you are all partakers with me of grace

even though I am imprisoned

has resulted in the defense and confirmation of the
gospel

The Philippian Church had continued their commitment to him, in spite of the social stigma that came with being in prison.

Philippians 1:8 *For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.*

“witness” - where we get our word “martyr”

God is holding Paul accountable for what he says next

“long for you with the affection of Jesus” - lit. “In the “bowels of” Jesus

Philippians 1:9-11 *And this is my prayer... that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

“love” - “agape” (selfless, sacrificial, unifying)

“discernment” - “perception”

“approve” - between differing things, what is excellent

“glory” - doxa, where we get our word “doxology”

We think “love” is either all or nothing

So if we love someone we overlook every sin in theirs or our lives

Choosing to be blind, refusing to confront

Thus, out of fear, we make the other person’s approval of us an idol

We want to be liked

Proverbs 25:12 *Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprove to a listening ear*

Or, if we see sin, we reject them as unworthy of our relationship

Choosing to be hyper-critical

Thus, out of pride, we make ourselves to be an idol

We want to be right. We want to win

1 Peter 4:8 *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins*

...including our own sins

Can we see the work Jesus is doing in each other, and celebrate that?

Paul was encouraged, even while in house-arrest in Rome, that the believers in Philippi had not rejected him. He expressed his joy in his love for them, and their love for him. He sees the work Jesus is doing in them.

But he wanted to encourage them to continue in gospel maturity

And understanding what love really is might be the evidence of gospel maturity