

## LESSONS FROM THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI

### Overview:

1. Paul wrote to the Romans about the “churches of Christ.”
2. A plurality of churches did not mean a number of different denominations.
3. Instead, each was a local body of believers that belonged to Christ.
4. Since we also are a church of Christ, there are many lessons to be learned from these early churches.

### Introduction:

1. The church at Philippi was the first congregation in Europe established by Paul.
2. While in the city of Troas, Paul saw a vision of a man from Macedonia asking for his help (Acts 16:8-10).
3. Immediately, they sailed across the Aegean Sea and came to the city of Philippi.
4. Here, a faithful church was founded and flourished.
5. Let us learn some valuable lessons from the church at Philippi...

### I. The Foundation of the Church at Philippi

- A. The conversion of Lydia and her household (Acts 16:12-15, 39-40).
  1. Lydia before conversion...
    - a. Lydia was an industrious woman (cf. Proverbs 31:13-14).
    - b. Lydia was a worshipping woman.
    - c. Lydia was a faithful woman.
      - i. She was away from home, yet still kept the Sabbath.
      - ii. She was a businesswoman, yet still kept the Sabbath.
      - iii. There was no synagogue, yet she still kept the Sabbath.
    - d. Lydia was an honest woman.
  2. Lydia during conversion...
    - a. She heard the preaching of Paul.
    - b. Her heart was open to the Truth.
      - i. Notice the order of events – Paul spoke, Lydia heard, her heart was opened, then she attended to the Truth.
      - ii. The Holy Spirit did not open her heart so she could hear the Word.
      - iii. Instead, He opened her heart with the Word!
    - c. She was attentive to the Gospel.
    - d. She was obedient to the Word.
  3. Lydia after conversion...
    - a. She was hospitable to her new Christian family.
    - b. She desired to remain faithful to the Lord.
    - c. She likely housed the new church in her home (vs. 40).
- B. The conversion of the Philippian jailer and his household (Acts 16:16-34).
  1. He recognized the sincerity and innocence of Paul (vs. 27-28).
  2. He desired to know how to be saved (vs. 29-30).
  3. He listened to the preaching of Paul and Silas (vs. 31-32).
  4. He demonstrated his penitent attitude (vs. 33-34).
  5. He obeyed the Gospel and became a believer (vs. 33-34).
- C. These two households became the Lord’s church in Philippi.

# The Churches of Christ Salute You

Lesson Four

(Romans 16:16)

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- II. The Faithfulness of the Church at Philippi
  - A. It was at least ten years after his first visit to Philippi that Paul penned the book of Philippians.
  - B. They were faithful in the organization of the church (1:1).
  - C. They were faithful in the work of the Gospel (1:3-7).
    - 1. They supported the Gospel and Gospel preachers.
    - 2. They defended the Gospel.
    - 3. They confirmed the Gospel to others – by evangelism.
    - 4. They greatly helped Paul in his preaching and his imprisonment (2:25-30).
  - D. They were faithful in the service of prayer (1:19; 4:6-7).
  - E. They were faithful in the example they set before others (1:27-28; 2:14-16; 4:5).
  - F. They were faithful in the suffering they endured (1:29-30).
  - G. They were faithful in the attitudes they possessed (2:1-11; 4:8).
  - H. They were faithful in the obedience they manifested (2:12).
  - I. They were faithful in the joy of the Christian life (3:1; 4:4).
  - J. They were faithful in the opposition of error (3:2-3, 17-19).
  - K. They were faithful in the striving for Heaven (3:12-15, 20-21).
  
- III. The Flourishing of the Church at Philippi
  - A. The word flourished (4:10) means, “to revive; to shoot up, sprout again.”
  - B. The Philippians care for Paul had flourished because they were presented with new opportunities to serve.
  - C. The Philippian church had been a great source of help to Paul.
    - 1. They supported him as he traveled through Greece (4:15).
    - 2. They sent aid to him on many occasions (4:16).
    - 3. They were a selfless and sacrificial congregation.
  - D. Now, they were once again helping Paul in his work.
    - 1. They communicated with – or, literally, became partakers of – Paul’s afflictions (4:14).
    - 2. They were in complete fellowship with Paul and his message.
    - 3. They sent aid to Paul in Rome (4:18).
  - E. Because they flourished in their giving and support of Paul, the Gospel flourished in Macedonia, Achaia and Rome.
  - F. From time to time, all congregations need a revival!
    - 1. In our attitudes toward Truth.
    - 2. In our motivations toward the work of the church.
    - 3. In our willingness to sacrifice and give.
    - 4. In our desire to serve, to teach and to preach.
    - 5. In our example before our brethren and the world.
    - 6. In our joy in simply living the Christian life.

## Conclusion:

- 1. May we learn to imitate the good qualities of these Christians.
- 2. May we strive to be a faithful and dedicated congregation of the Lord.
- 3. May we flourish in our lives as Christians.