

## **How To Study the Bible**

### **Part Nine: Book Study**

#### **The Benefits of a Book Study**

- 1.) Helps us to see the teachings of God's Word in \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2.) Causes us to study \_\_\_\_\_ we might not otherwise study.

#### **Steps for a Book Study**

- 1.) Read the \_\_\_\_\_ in one setting.
- 2.) Ask \_\_\_\_\_ about the text.
  - *Who is writing?*
  - *Where is the author writing from?*
  - *Who was it written to?*
  - *When was the book written?*
  - *What is the purpose of the book?*
  - *What is the theme of the book?*
  - *What are some of the important topics?*
- 3.) Develop a general \_\_\_\_\_ of the book.
- 4.) Summarize how to \_\_\_\_\_ what you have learned.

#### **Practice Book Study**

##### **BOOK: Philippians**

**STEP ONE:** Read the entire book in one setting.

**STEP TWO:** Ask questions

*Who is writing?* The apostle Paul along with Timothy (1:1).

- Paul seems to be the sole writer because he speaks in the first person.
- "servants of Christ Jesus" (slaves)

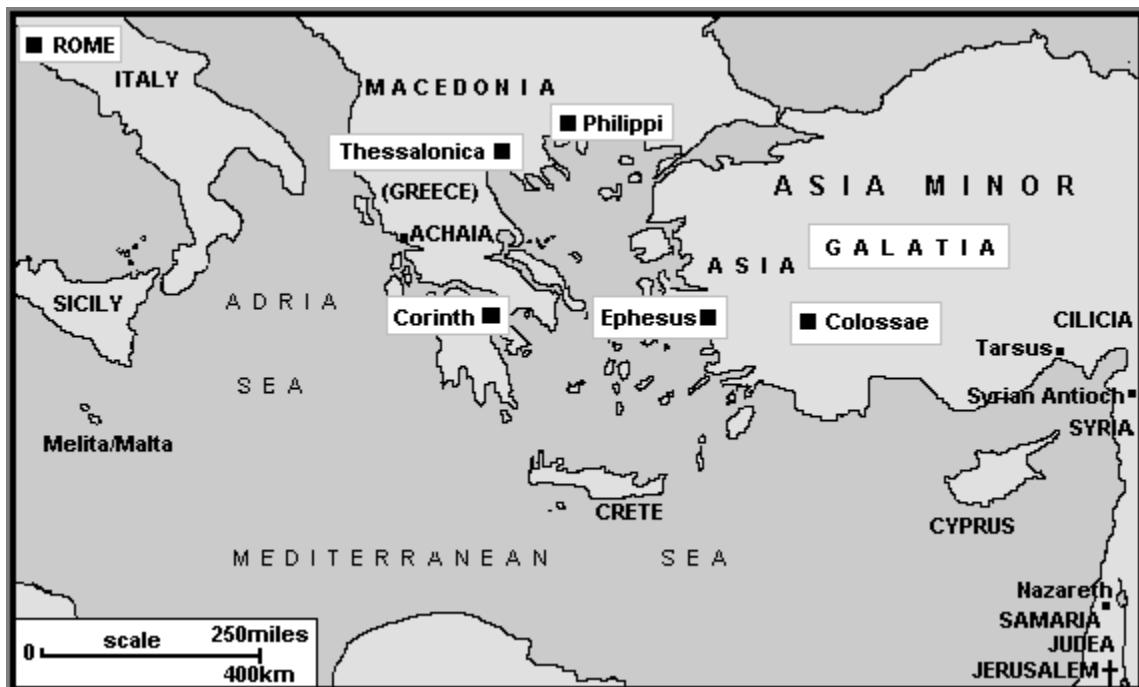
*Where is he writing from?* Paul wrote this letter from prison (1:13, 14, 17).

- Paul was most likely in prison in Rome (4:22).

*When was the book written?* Early 60s AD

*Who was it written to?* To all the believers (God's holy people / saints) at Philippi (1:1)

- "saints" – sacred, holy, different, set apart, special to the Lord
  - As believers we are set apart from the world
- He especially mentions the "overseers" and the "deacons"
  - "overseers" – (episkopos) – bishop, an overseer of God's flock
  - "deacon" – a servant, minister; / From Thayer's Bible Dictionary – "a deacon, one who, by virtue of the office assigned to him by the church, cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money collected for their use."
- Philippi was located in Macedonia or north-eastern Greece
  - Philippi was named after Philip II of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great
  - Philippi was a Roman colony (Acts 16:12), meaning its inhabitants were Roman citizens.



- Paul visited Philippi and helped to start the church during his second missionary journey (Acts 16:6-40).

- Paul had a vision of a man from Macedonia begging him to come to Macedonia (9)
- Paul stayed in Philippi for several days (12)

- Paul and his team members visited a place of prayer along the river (13)
- It appears that the church was formed when Lydia and her household were baptized. Paul and his companions stayed at her house. (15)
- Paul and Silas had an encounter with a demon possessed girl (16-18)
- They were thrown in jail (19-24)
- God miraculously delivered Paul and Silas from jail as they were singing (25-26)
- The jailer and his family believed and were baptized that night (27-34)

*What was the purpose of the book?*

*What is the theme of the book?*

*What are some of the important topics?*

### **STEP THREE: Develop a general outline**

- After you read through the book, start working on an outline of the book.