

# An Introduction to Philippians

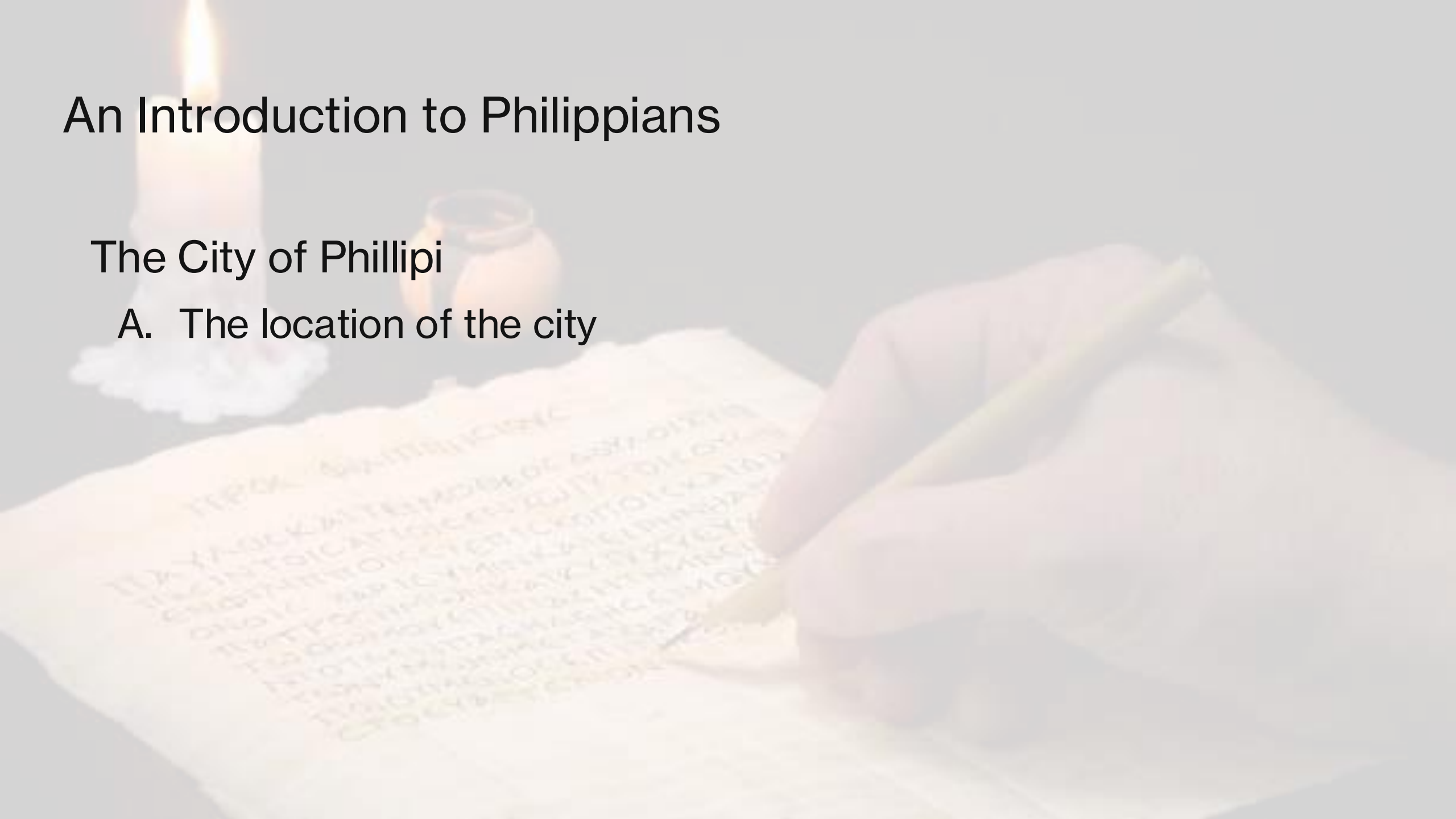
Letters of Paul  
Sojourners Fellowship



# An Introduction to Philippians

## The City of Phillipi

### A. The location of the city











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## The City of Phillipi

- A. The location of the city
- B. The city's history and significance

## The Church at Phillipi

- A. It was established by the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:6-40)



# An Introduction to Philippians

## The City of Phillippi

- A. The location of the city
- B. The city's history and significance

## The Church at Phillippi

- A. It was established by the Apostle Paul (Acts 16:6-40)
- B. It was diverse in its make-up
- C. It was a body characterized by faithful serving & giving

# Paul's Letter to the Philippians

When/Where Paul Wrote the Letter

Paul's Purpose in Writing

- To express his love for them (1:6-8)
- To encourage them regarding his imprisonment (1:12-14, 18b-26)
- To explain why Epaphroditus was returning to them (2:25-28)
- To thank them for their financial gift (4:10, 14-18)
- To spur them on in their growth in Christlikeness

# Paul's Letter to the Philippians

- To spur them on in their growth in Christlikeness that they might...
- Grow in their love and in righteousness (1:9-11)
- Live in unity, standing firm against their opponents (1:27-30)
- Live in unity by considering the example of Christ's humility (2:1-8)
- Work out their salvation, growing in holiness (2:12-13)
- Avoid the errors of legalism and lawlessness (3:2-3, 18-19)
- Stand firm in unity (4:1)
- Imitate Paul's example of Christlike living (4:4-9)



# Paul's Letter to the Philippians

**THEME:** Essential Christian Living

**LONGER THEME:** God has called every believer to live the Christian life in accordance with basic principles He has supplied in His Word

# Outline of Philippians

## I. Introduction (1:1-11)

- A. Paul's Greeting (1-2)
- B. Giving Thanks for the Philippians (3-8)
- C. Paul's Prayer for the Philippians (9-11)

## II. Paul's Circumstances in Rome (1:12-26)

- A. The Gospel Has Been Spread (12-18)
- B. Paul's Thoughts on His Deliverance (19-26)

## III. Paul's First Series of Exhortations (1:27-2:18)

- A. Call to Unity and Courage in the Face of Opposition (1:27-30)
- B. Call to Unity through Humility per the Example of Christ (2:1-11)
- C. Call to Work Out their Own Salvation (2:12-18)

A hand holding a lit candle over an open book. The candle is lit, and the flame is visible. The book is open, and the pages are visible. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color.

#### IV. Two Messengers of Paul to the Philippians (2:19-30)

A. Timothy (2:19-24)

B. Epaphroditus (2:25-30)

#### V. Warnings about Doctrinal Errors (3:1-21)

A. Against Legalism (3:1-16)

B. Against Lawlessness (3:17-21)

#### VI. The Second Series of Exhortations (4:1-9)

A. Call to Stand Firm in Unity (4:1-3)

B. Call to Pursue Christlike Virtues (4:4-9)

#### VII. Paul's Expression of Thanks for their Gifts (4:10-20)

#### VIII. Closing (4:21-23)

# Applications

1. Thank God for the wisdom He imparts to us as we study, mediate on and obey His Word.
2. Thank God for the clarity of the Bible!
3. Praise the Lord that as Paul reminds us in Philippians 2:13, through the power of the gospel "*it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*"