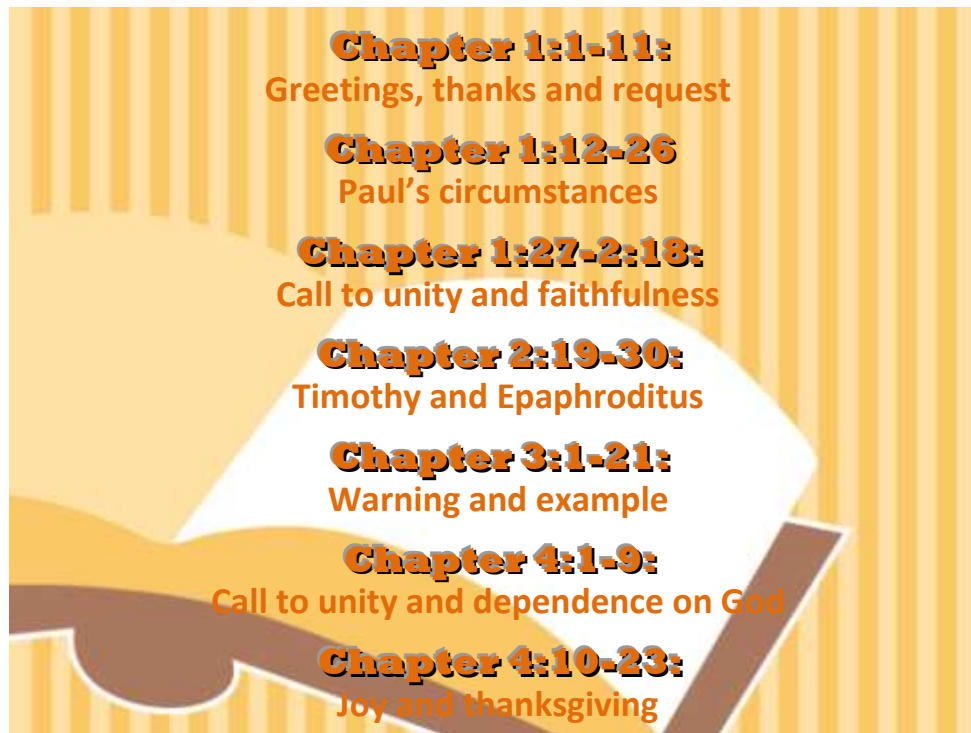


The Letter to the Philippians

"Rejoice in the Lord always." Mark 10:45



How it started: The apostle Paul was arrested in Philippi, during his second missionary journey, because of the healing of a fortune teller. A nocturnal earthquake destroyed the prison and nearly drove the director to commit suicide. But Paul was able to preach the gospel to him (Acts 16:19-34).

The man then took Paul and his companion Silas into his house and the whole family was saved. That's how, in Philippi, the first Christian church in Europe was established.

The Philippians often sent gifts to the apostle, while he was on his journeys, in order to help him. They also sent support to him in Rome. The person who delivered the gift was Epaphroditus. When he arrived in Rome, he fell seriously ill, but through the grace of God

got well again. On his return, he took the letter to the Philippians with him.

What it is all about: The letter to the Philippians doesn't contain any special divine revelations regarding the Christian doctrine, as for example the letters to the Ephesians or the Colossians.

Rather, this letter helps to put the theoretical knowledge of God into practice in the day to day life as a Christian. In their daily lives, Christians can show the attitude of the Lord Jesus towards those they come into contact with.

The letter to the Philippians also describes the experiences of a Christian who has followed the Lord Jesus in faith and with energy. It is rightly called "the letter of experience".

As in the whole Bible, the Lord Jesus takes a central place in the letter to the Philippians: Real joy can be found only in Him!

How about today? You are living in a time in which many young people don't see any purpose in life. They are desperately looking for a substitute, but sadly end up with films, certain computer games, fantasy stories or drugs, which only masquerade a beautiful world. As they get older and are confronted by the reality of life, many are foundering. – That's not what God wants!

The letter to the Philippians provides you with many practical hints as to the real purpose of life. It also answers many questions regarding the behaviour of a Christian.

If the Lord Jesus fills your life, is the example for your attitude to life and the source of your strength, you will experience the peace of God in your daily life.