

The early church was unanimous in its testimony that Philippians was written by the apostle Paul. The many personal references of the author fits what we know of Paul from other New Testament books.

It is evident in 1:13-14 that Paul wrote this letter from prison. Some scholars say from Ephesus(AD 53-55), others claim from Caesarea (AD 57-59); but the best evidence favors Rome as the place of origin (AD 61).

He was under house arrest for two years, But was free to preach the Gospel to all who came to him.

Paul's primary purposes in writing this letter were:

- 1- to thank the Christians at Philippi for the gifts they had sent him by Epaphroditus .
- 2 - Inform the Christians of his own circumstances, And that Epaphroditus had recovered from his illness and was returning to Philippi.
- 3- To appeal for unity and the end of quarrels in the church
- 4 - To warn them of false doctrines especially that of Jewish Christians " Judaizers" who insisted on Circumcision for Gentiles.

The city of Philippi was a prosperous Roman colony named after King Phillip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. The Philippians were citizens of the city of Rome itself. They prided themselves on being Romans. Many of the Philippians were retired military men who had been given land in the vicinity.

Philippians has lots of often quoted passages, including my own life verse "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength " (4:13). When I read any of Paul's writings, I always marvel at the amount of joy that Paul possesses. Imprisoned or not, Paul always showed contentment in Christ's service. His letter to the Philippians tells us that by centering their lives on Christ, they too might live in true joy. That is my prayer for us at Community as well.

In his service , Steve Guenther