

New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church

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Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr. Bible Study

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."
(Ps. 119:105)

Study of Philippians, "The Epistle of Joy" [pt.1]

{Philippians 1:1,2}

- **v.1)** 'Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
- v.2) "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - The city of Philippi was founded by Phillip of Macedon who is the father of Alexander the Great.
 - The city was founded during Paul's second missionary journey.
 - ✓ [Acts 16:8] They arrive at Troas which is the last part of land in front of the Aegean Sea.
 - ✓ [Acts 16:9] God calls Paul into Macedonia which was taking Christianity from Asia to Europe.
 - ✓ They take a boat across the Aegean Sea and arrive at Samothracia, then they travel to Neapolis [Acts 16:11] and finally they arrive in Philippi [Acts16:12].
 - ✓ On the Sabbath day they go to the riverside looking for a synagogue [Acts 16:13]. They went to the riverside because when the Jews were in captivity they would go to the riverside and weep [Ps. 137:1] and this became a Jewish tradition.
 - ✓ While at the riverside they received their first convert who was a businesswoman named Lydia [Acts 16:14] and the church of Philippi was born.

v.1)

- Paul: his name means little or small. He describes himself in the writing to the Philippians [Phil. 3:4-8].
- Timothy: his name means honoring God. He is the son of Eunice [2 Tim. 1:5] and his mother was a traveling companion and disciple of Paul. Timothy was described by Paul in this letter also [Phil. 2:19,20].

- Paul lists Timothy's name with his because he is a co-laborer of the gospel, not a coauthor of the book.
- Paul does not list his apostleship in this book as he usually does because he doesn't have to remind his readers about the authority of his position. This is an epistle from the heart that is filled with gratitude and joy.
- "servants" bondservants [Grk.] doulos (*doo'-los*): a voluntary slave [Ex. 21:5,6].
- "all the saints" in context Paul is speaking to the entire congregation. The strong and mature as well as the weak and growing.
- Christ is not partial; the strong and the weak meet together in Him. We must make no distinctions with God's people especially regarding our care and correction of the saints [1 Thess. 5:14,15].
- "bishops and deacons" these are the two offices that the Lord has given to the church [1 Tim. 3:1-13].
- This is a strong indication of the maturity and strength of this church.

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