

Paul's Letters to the Philippians & Philemon

Reading Questions

Directions: Answer the questions below on a sheet of loose-leaf paper. Complete sentences are not necessary, only complete answers.

Intro to Philippians

1. In what Roman province was the city of Philippi located?
 - a. On what famous Roman road was Philippi located?
2. After who was Philippi named?
3. What famous event took place "on the plains near Philippi" in Oct of 42 BC?
4. Who turned Philippi into a Roman colony?
 - a. When the city became a colony, who was settled there?
5. Although scholars disagree about where Paul was when he wrote this letter, it is clear that he wrote it while he was in what?
6. Scholars have noticed that, after what appears to be a closing to the letter at the end of Chapter 2, Paul erupts into warnings against false teachers who have been teaching what?
7. According to the traditional view, where was Paul when he wrote this letter, and when did he write it?
 - a. Most recent scholarship favors what location and date for the writing of the letter?
8. Some scholars have argued that the letter as we have it is actually a composite of at least how many letters?
9. Because of its main themes, this letter has been termed "the letter of..." what?

Philippians 1

10. Who are the two senders of this letter?
11. Paul mentions two positions of early church leadership in the Greeting of this letter. What are they?
12. Acc to the Thanksgiving, what was Paul's "prayer" for the Philippians?
13. Paul says that his "situation has turned out rather to advance the gospel." To what situation is he referring?
 - a. What does Paul claim that the "majority of brothers" have done as a result of his situation?
 - b. What are the two motivations of those who preach Christ since Paul found himself in his situation?
 - c. Why does Paul think that the motivation behind their preaching ultimately does not matter?
14. Fill in the blanks: "For me, life is ____, and death is ____." (1:21)
 - a. Paul says he is caught between the choice of life and death. What is it about each that makes the choice so difficult?
 - b. What is unusual about Paul's discussion of the choice between life and death, in light of what he said previously about the living and the dead in 1 Thess?
15. Paul tells the Philippians that their unity and refusal to be intimidated by their opponents is proof of their (the Philippians') what?
16. He also tells them that it has been granted to them not only to believe in Christ, but also to do what?

Phil 2

17. What does Paul tell the Philippians to do to "complete my joy"?
18. Phil 2:6-11 contains Paul's famous "Hymn to Christ." Answer the following questions on it.
 - a. Acc to v.6, Christ was "in the form of..." who?
 - b. But Christ did not regard what as "something to be grasped"?
 - c. Acc to the footnote for v.6, this verse is probably intended to contrast Jesus with what significant figure in the book of Genesis?
 - d. Acc to v.7, Christ "emptied himself, taking the form..." of what?
 - e. What OT prophet predicted a messiah figure that would come in the form of a servant or slave?
19. In 2:17, Paul says that, "even if I am poured out as a libation upon the sacrificial service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with all of you." Acc to the footnote, what does Paul mean when he refers to himself as a "libation"?
20. Who is the first person that Paul says he hopes to send to the Philippians to find out how they are doing?
21. Who is the second person Paul plans to send?
 - a. Why did Paul think it necessary to send this second person?

Phil 3

22. In 3:2-4, Paul tells the Philippians to beware of whom?
 - a. What did these people apparently teach?

23. Why does Paul think he has more reason to be confident "in the flesh" than "anyone else"?
24. Paul says that he considers all the things he had gained "before Christ" to be "so much" what?
 - a. He also says that he has "no righteousness of [his] own based on the law but that which comes through" what?
25. Paul also claims that by sharing in Christ's sufferings and "being conformed to his death," he hopes to somehow attain what?
26. Acc to Paul, when Jesus returns those who have awaited him will have their "lowly body" changed to conform to what?

Phil 4

27. In 4:2, Paul urges two women to settle their differences. What are their names?
28. In 4:3, Paul mysteriously addresses someone he calls "true yokemate." **Impress me.** Who did Eusebius think that this "yokemate" was?
29. Paul offers gratitude to the Philippians for providing for his needs "not only once but more than once" when he was in what city?
30. Paul concludes this letter by saying that "all the holy ones send you their greetings, especially those of..." whose household?

Intro to Philemon

31. Like Philippians, this letter was written while Paul was in what?
32. Where is Philemon believed to have been written from?
 - a. and when is it believed to have been written?
33. This letter concerns a slave. What was his name?
 - a. Where was he from?
 - b. What had he done?
34. Acc to the intro, what are the two reasons why Paul does not directly attack the institution of slavery in this letter?

The Letter to Philemon

35. Who are the three people to whom this letter is specifically addressed?
36. Paul says he has the "full right to order [Philemon] to do what is proper," but rather urges him out of what?
37. V.10-11 contain a play on the name of Philemon's slave. What is the slave's name?
 - a. What does it mean?
 - b. How did Paul and this slave come to meet each other?
38. Paul urges Philemon to take his slave back, not as a slave, but as what?
39. In v.18, what does Paul tell Philemon he should do if the slave has done him any injustice?
 - a. Again, in v.19, what does Paul tell Philemon he is writing to him "in my own hand"?
 - b. But, in v.20, Paul tells Philemon that Philemon owes him what?
40. The letter concludes with a list of people who send their greetings along with Paul. On the list are believed to be the names of two gospel authors. Which two?