

Making Application from the Message to Life:

5. Considering Paul's experience in Acts 16 and his opening remarks in Philippians 1:1-2, why was the Philippian church important to him? Why should we consider their church, and the letter written to them, to be of importance to us now?

6. Looking specifically at the introduction to Philippians, in what ways can you consider yourself to be included among the "saints" to whom this letter is addressed? Why is this significant, both in understanding your identity as a follower of Jesus and in how you apply the words of this letter?

7. Paul's wish upon the church in Philippi was grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. What is the significance of that opening phrase? How can it encourage or challenge you this week? How can it be your prayer and wish for others in the days ahead?

The Letter to the Philippians: Introduction **Acts 16:1-15; Philippians 1:1-2** *January 4, 2014*

1. The Introduction to the Municipality - Acts 16:1-15

A. The Voice of the Spirit (v. 1-8)

B. The Vision of the Sinner (v. 9-12)

C. The Victory of the Savior (v. 13-15)

2. The Introduction to the Message - Phil. 1:1-2

A. The Servants (v. 1a)

B. The Saints (v. 1b)

C. The Salutation (v. 2)

Message-Based Discussion Questions

1. The opening lines of a letter can tell us quite a lot! As we begin our study of Philippians, read 1:1-2 - what do you observe about the letter, the source, and the recipients?

Digging Deeper:

2. To get to know Philippians as a letter, we need to get to know the church to which it was sent. The local church in Philippi had its beginnings in Acts 16. Read verses 11-15, and notice how the gospel did its work in the lives of the people involved. How did the church get started? What were some important characteristics of this brand new church?

3. In Acts 16:16-24, we see the first obstacle Paul and Silas encountered as the gospel began to take root in Philippi. What was so controversial about the message these men were proclaiming? Why was it received the way it was?

4. Continue into Acts 16:25-40 and read the rest of the story about what happened in Philippi. How did God use this initial resistance to the gospel to continue to build a foundation for His church? What does that tell us about our own role in the gospel ministry of the local church?