

**He Who Began a Good Work: Philippians 1:1–8**  
Water of Life Dr. John Niemelä January 26, 2017

INTRODUCTION

1:1-2: INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

A. Author = Paul

B. Recipients = Leaders and congregation at Philippi (in northern Greece)

C. Date & Place of writing = early spring AD 62 (at end of Paul's 1st Roman imprisonment)

Chronology of Paul's imprisonment and (8 week) trips between Rome and Philippi, if the Philippians heard of Paul's imprisonment ten months after it started

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|---|------------------|
| 1. Paul's imprisonment in Rome began  | late February 60 |
| 2. Philippians learn of Paul's Roman imprisonment<br>Cf. Philippians 1:30 (3 mo.?)            | ≈ January 61     |
| 3. Epaphroditus arrived in Rome (from Philippi)<br>Cf. Philippians 4:18 (3 mo.?)              | ≈ April 61       |
| 4. Epaphroditus became deathly ill in Rome<br>Cf. Philippians 2:26 (2 mo.?)                   | ≈ July 61        |
| 5. Word of Epaphroditus' illness reaches Philippi<br>Cf. Philippians 2:26 (3 mo.?)            | ≈ September 61   |
| 6. Epaphroditus heard that Philippians worried<br>Cf. Philippians 2:26 (3 mo.?)               | ≈ December 61    |
| 7. Epaphroditus left Rome to take the letter to Philippi<br>Cf. Philippians 2:25, 28 (3 mo.?) | ≈ February 62    |
| 8. Paul's imprisonment in Rome ended  | early spring 62  |
| 9. Paul planned to send Timothy to Philippi (soon)<br>Cf. Philippians 2:19–23                 | —                |
| 10. Paul planned to travel to Rome himself<br>Cf. Philippians 2:24                            | —                |

D. Date when Paul was in Philippi (Acts 16:12–40)

August–October 50

E. Events surrounding Paul's visit to Philippi in Acts 16

1:3–4: Paul thanks God for the Philippians as He petitions for them

1:5 Paul thanks God for the Philippians for financially partnering with him in the gospel  
fellowship = *koinōnia*

Cf. Philippians 1:7 *sun-koinōneō*

4:14 *sun-koinōneō*

4:15 *koinōneō*

1:6 Paul confidently thanks God for the Philippians partnering with him in the Gospel, because it will be completed at the bēma

Myths about this verse

What the verse really means

Fitting this verse into the context of Philippians

1:7 It is right for Paul to expect the Lord to complete their partnering in the gospel at the bēma because they are dear to each other: evidenced by them partaking of grace with Paul

I have you in the heart / you have me in the heart

You are partakers with me of grace in my chains and in defense-confirmation of gospel

1:8 As proof of them being dear to each other, Paul calls upon God as witness as to how greatly Paul longs to see the Philippians again

CONCLUSION