

He Who Began a Good Work: Philippians 1:1–8

Water of Life Bible Class

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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 1st Roman imprisonment)

Chronology of Paul's imprisonment and (8 week) trips between Rome and Philippi

1. Paul's imprisonment in Rome begins late Feb 60
2. Philippians hear that Paul is in Roman prison (Phili 1:30) ca. Jan 61
3. Epaphroditus comes to Rome from Philippi (Phil 4:18) ca. Apr 61
4. Epaphroditus becomes deathly ill in Rome (Phil 2:26) ca. Jul 61
5. Philippians hear that Epaphroditus is sick (Phil 2:26) ca. Sep 61
6. Epaphroditus hear that Philippi worries over him (Phil 2:26) ca. Dec 61
7. Epaphroditus takes the letter to Philippi (Phil 2:25, 28) ca. Feb 62
8. Paul's imprisonment in Rome ends (spring 62)
9. Paul will send Timothy to Philippi (soon) — (Phil 2:19–23)
10. Paul plans to travel to Philippi himself — (Phil 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

EXPOSITION

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

1:5 Paul thanks God that Philippi financially partnered with him in the gospel
fellowship = *koinōnia*

Cf. Phil 1:7 *sun-koinōneō*

4:14 *sun-koinōneō*

4:15 *koinōneō*

1:6 Paul confidently thanks God that Philippi financially partnered with him in the gospel, **because the Lord will complete at the *Bēma* seat the work begun in the church at Philippi**

Myths about this verse

What the verse really means

Fitting this verse into the context of Philippians

1:7 Paul rightly expects the Lord to complete their financial partnering in the gospel at the *Bēma*, because they are dear to each other: **shown by them partaking of grace with Paul in his imprisonment and in confirming/defending the gospel**

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

You partake with me of grace in my chains & in defending/confirming gospel

1:8 As proof of them being dear to each other, **Paul calls God to witness regarding how greatly Paul longs to see them again**

CONCLUSION