

# The Letter of Paul to the Philippians

May 16<sup>th</sup> – Introduction and Chapter 1:1 to 1:20

May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Chapter 1:21 to 2:18

May 30<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 2:19 to 3:16

June 6<sup>th</sup> – Chapter 3:17 to 4:23



Philippi on the Egnatian Way ( Red Line )

To Rome via the Appian Way ( Purple Line )

# Brief History of Philippi

- ▶ 386 BC - Founded by Philip II of Macedonia
- ▶ 186 BC - Roman Conquest
- ▶ 100s BC - Construction of the Egnatian Way
- ▶ 42 BC - Battle of Philippi
- ▶ ~ 40 BC - Philippi becomes a Roman Colony
- ▶ 52 AD - Apostle Paul first visits Philippi
- ▶ 62 AD - Paul writes his Letter to the Philippians as a Roman Prisoner



Philippi on the Egnatian Way ( Red Line )

To Rome via the Appian Way ( Purple Line )

# 1<sup>st</sup> Three Christians on European Soil were Philippians

- ▶ #1 Lydia - wealthy textile merchant- Asian Jewish proselyte (or “convert”)
- ▶ #2 Poor Greek Slave Girl delivered from evil spirit
- ▶ #3 Middle class Roman soldier guarding Paul

# Purpose of the Letter

- ▶ **Practical Purpose** - to thank the Philippians for their gifts and the services of Epaphroditus. (just one of many reasons)
- ▶ **Timeless Universal Purpose** - the “Epistle of Joy” - Paul encourages the Philippian believers (and us) to rejoice in spite of suffering and anxiety, rejoice in service, and continue to look to Christ as the object of their faith and hope.

# Structure of the Letter

Paul uses a format in this, and most of his other letters, that is common in the ancient world of his day:

1. Greeting - vs. 1:1 to 1:2
2. Thanksgiving - vs. 1:3 to 1:8
3. Prayer - vs. 1:9 to 1:11
4. Body - vs. 1:12 to 4:20
5. Salutation - vs. 4:21 to 4:23

# Am I a Bondservant of Christ?

- ▶ Bondservant = Greek “doulos” or SLAVE
- ▶ Am I owned by Christ?
- ▶ Do I show complete obedience and allegiance to Christ?
- ▶ Have I surrendered my will completely to Christ?

# Are you “In Christ”...?

- ▶ ...As a Bird is IN THE AIR
- ▶ ...As a Fish is IN THE WATER
- ▶ Totally surrounded by and dependent on Him.

# Peace with God results in the Peace of God

- ▶ “the inner assurance and tranquility that God ministers to the hearts of believers and that keeps them spiritually confident and content even in the midst of turmoil”
- ▶ - Expositors Bible Commentary



“It is a lovely thing when remembrance and gratitude are bound up together”.

- Ellicott



# One of Paul's great JOYS: sharing in the fellowship of the Gospel

- ▶ Greek “**koinonia**” - literally means “participation with” and implies a two-way relationship
  - ▶ Paul's Joy is fellowshipping with the Philippians for the advancement of the Gospel they believe in together.
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Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that you may prove** what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

- NKJV



Created BY Him and FOR Him:

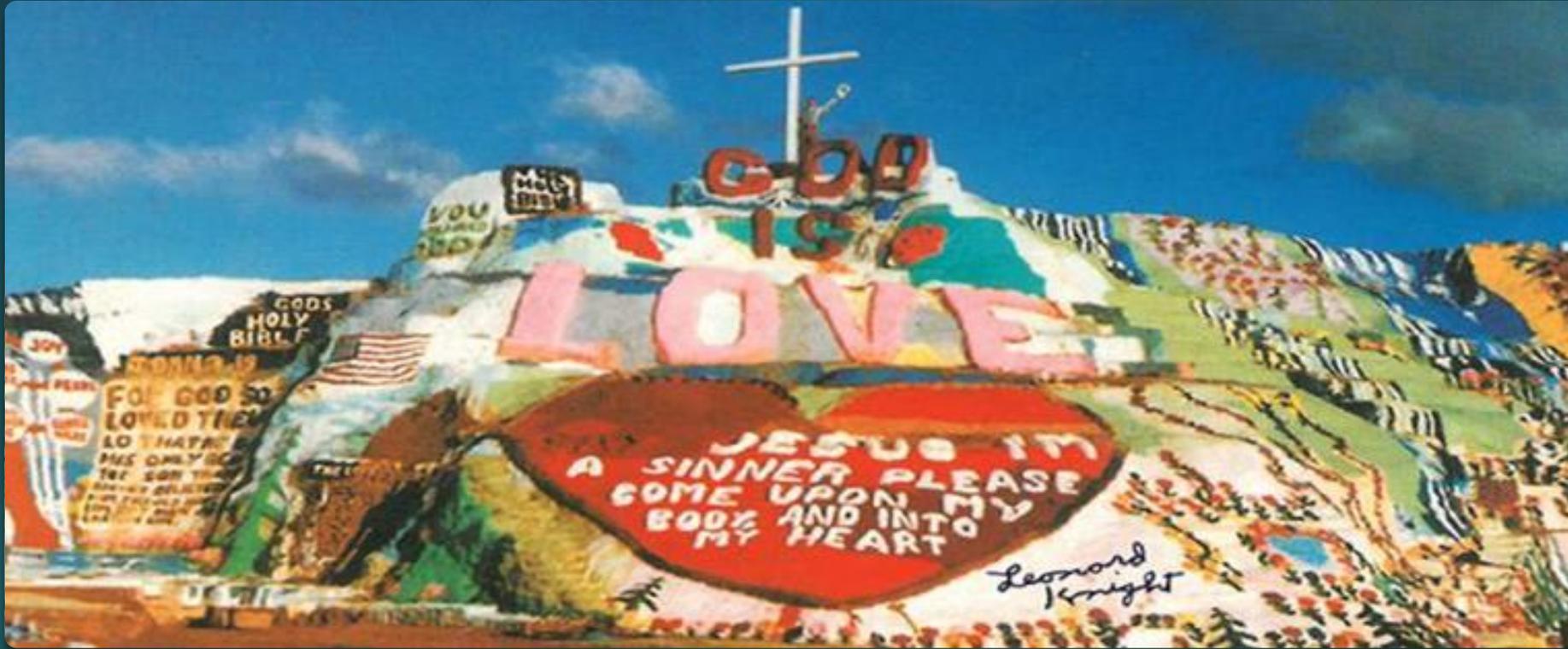
Romans 11:36 For **everything** comes from him and exists by his power and **is intended for his glory**. All glory to him forever! Amen.

(NLT)

# Another Key to Paul's JOY

## his single-minded focus on Christ

- ▶ Philippians 3:13 ...but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.



Salvation Mountain - the result of one man's single-minded focus to bring glory to God.

Leonard Knight

# On Purpose and Joy:

- ▶ “This is the true **joy** in life; the being used up for a **purpose** recognized by yourself as a mighty one; being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clot of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy”
- ▶ - George Bernard Shaw

# The Joy of the Lord:

- ▶ Hebrews 12:1 ...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who **for the joy** that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

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