

# *Paul's letter to the Philippians*

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## **The church at Philippi**



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# Paul's second missionary journey

- The church at Antioch in Syria sent Paul and Silas overland into Galatia (and beyond).
- Timothy joined them at Lystra.
- Prevented from ministering in Asia and Bithynia.
- Arrived in Troas waiting for God's direction.



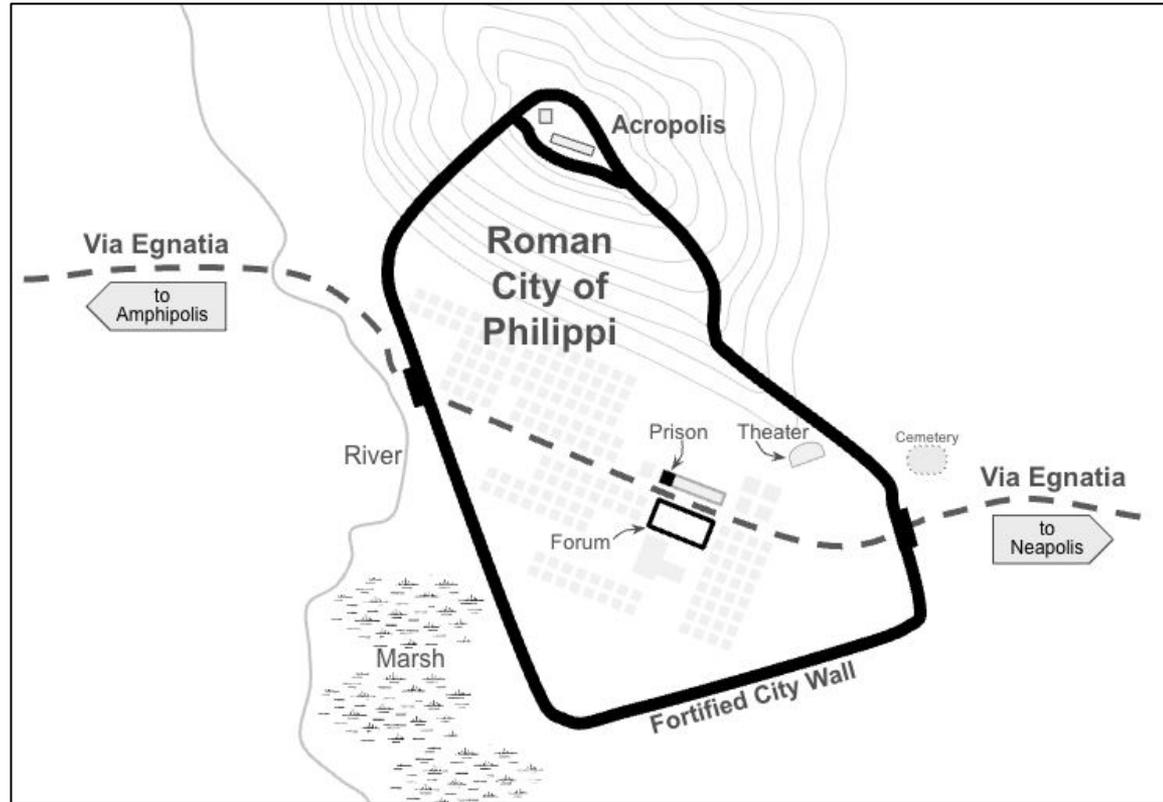
# The vision of the man of Macedonia

- God gave Paul a vision of a man of Macedonia asking for their help (Acts 16:9-10).
- Luke joined them in Troas.
- **Philippi** ~ a Roman colony populated mainly by soldiers and veterans. They were proud Roman citizens.
- Located on the famed *Via Egnatia*, one of the primary military and trade routes between Europe and Asia.



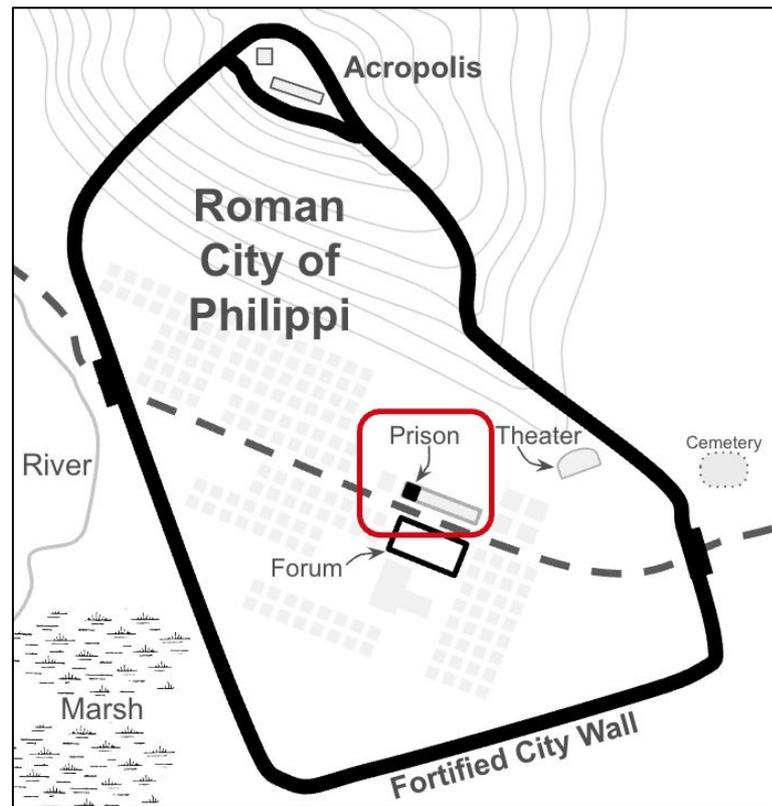
# The first converts in Macedonia

- No Jewish synagogue but an informal place of prayer by the river.
- Lydia sold purple cloth, a valuable commodity in Philippi.
- She and her companions believed in Christ and were baptized.
- They became the first converts in Europe.



# Kindness leads to opposition

- Paul and his companions accepted Lydia's hospitality and ministered in Philippi for a time (possibly up to a few weeks).
- Paul healed a demon-possessed slave girl, but her owners dragged Paul and Silas before the city magistrates.
- They were beaten and jailed, but an earthquake freed the prisoners. Paul's handling of this event led the jailer to trust in Christ. After being exonerated they traveled on to Thessalonica.



# A loving and generous church

- This small group of dedicated believers grew quickly, both numerically and spiritually.
- Luke remained in Philippi (probably with Timothy) to continue building up the new church.
- The Philippians were always generous and often sent gifts of support to Paul.
- Paul would not see them again personally until his third missionary journey about five years later.



# Faithfulness across the years

- After their last visit Paul would be detained under Roman authority for another five years in Jerusalem, Caesarea, and Rome pending the appeal of his case to Caesar.
- While Paul was under house arrest in Rome (Acts 28:30), the Philippians helped with his expenses. It was during this time that he wrote the epistle which we have as the *Book of Philippians*.
- Across the years the Philippians consistently held a very special place in Paul's heart.
- They were true ministry partners in his efforts to carry out his mission to share the gospel with "the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel" (Acts 9:15).