

# The Story of Paul

13 of the books in the New Testament are letters written by a man called **Paul**. (In his younger years he was also sometimes called **Saul**.) He went to lots of different countries to tell people about Jesus, and started lots of churches. He wrote letters to these churches to help them follow Jesus and stay on the right **path**.



But Paul hadn't always been a follower of Jesus. In fact, when he was a young man he had hated Christians because he thought they were telling lies about God! But then something happened to make him change his mind.

## Saul (Paul) becomes a Christian

Saul was very clever. He had read all the Old Testament. He knew a lot about God. He was one of the religious leaders in Israel.

But Saul did not believe in Jesus. He was very angry, because the Christians were telling people that Jesus had risen from the dead, and that Jesus was God's son. One day, a Christian called **Stephen** was killed by some people who didn't believe in Jesus. The Bible says, "Saul agreed that the killing of Stephen was a good thing." (Acts chapter 8 verse 1)

Nobody expected Saul to become a Christian! Saul hated Christians!

One day, Saul decided to go to a city called **Damascus**. He wanted to find Christians there and arrest them. But something amazing happened on the way! We can read about it in Acts chapter 9:

When Saul came near the city, a very bright light from heaven suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,



“Saul, Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”

Saul said, “Who are you, Lord?”

The voice answered, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. Get up now and go into the city. Someone there will tell you what you must do.”

The men travelling with Saul just stood there, unable to speak. They heard the voice, but they saw no one. Saul got up from the ground and opened his eyes, but he could not see. So the men with him held his hand and led him into Damascus. For 3 days, Saul could not see; he did not eat or drink.

(Acts chapter 9 verses 3-9, ERV)

Next, God told a Christian called **Ananias** to help Saul. Ananias was very scared, because he knew about all the bad things Saul had done to the Christians. But he went to see Saul and prayed for him. Then Saul could see again! He got baptised and started to tell other people about Jesus!

Later on, Saul began to call himself Paul. A lot of bad things happened to him because he was telling people about Jesus. He was arrested and beaten. He was put in prison. But Paul never stopped doing what God wanted him to do.

### Paul wrote letters to churches in lots of different places:

Rome, Italy (**Romans**)

Galatia, Turkey (**Galatians**)

Philippi, Greece (**Philippians**)

Colossae, Turkey (**Colossians**)

Corinth, Greece (**1 & 2 Corinthians**)

Ephesus, Turkey (**Ephesians**)

Thessalonika, Greece (**1 & 2 Thessalonians**)

### He also wrote letters to his friends:

Timothy, a church leader  
(**1 & 2 Timothy**)

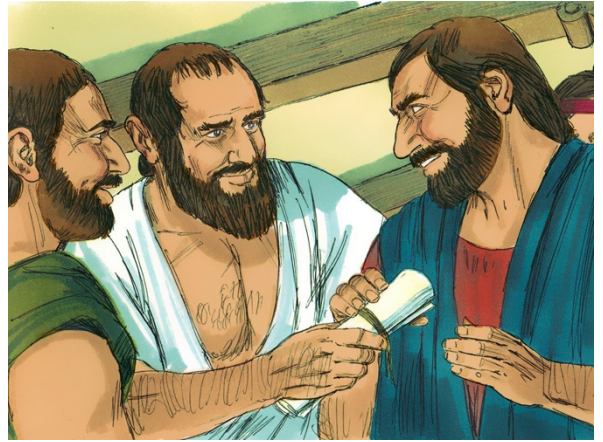
Philemon, a rich Christian  
(**Philemon**)

Titus, a church leader  
(**Titus**)



# Philippians 1:1-11

Paul wrote this letter to the church he had started in a city called **Philippi**, in Greece. When he wrote this letter to the church in Philippi, Paul was in prison for telling people about Jesus. In those days, there was no postman. Paul had to ask someone to take his letter all the way to Philippi. When the letter arrived, it would be read out to the whole church. After the church had read it, someone might take it on to another city so that other churches could read it too.



Read **Philippians chapter 1 verses 1-11** in your Bible.

What are some of the nice things that Paul says about the Christians in Philippi? (Ch 1 v 1-8)



What does Paul ask for in his prayer? (Ch 1 v 9-11)

Verse to remember:

I am sure that the good work God began in you will continue until he completes it on the day when Jesus Christ comes again.

(Philippians chapter 1 verse 6, ERV)



# Philippians 1:12-26

Some important people were angry with Paul because he was telling people about Jesus. They put him in prison to try to stop him. But being in prison didn't stop Paul from doing good things for God. He wrote letters to his churches, and he encouraged other Christians who came to visit him. Paul knew that the best thing he could do was to keep following Jesus, and he could do that anywhere. Even in prison!



Read **Philippians chapter 1 verses 12-26** in your Bible.

What are some of the good things that have happened because Paul is in prison? How does Paul feel about these things?  
(Ch 1 v 12-20)



Why do you think Paul isn't afraid of dying? (Ch 1 v 21-26)

Bible Verse to remember:

To me, the only important thing about living is Christ. And even death would be for my benefit.

(Philippians chapter 1 verse 21, ERV)



# Philippians 1:27-2:11

One of the reasons Paul wrote to his churches was to keep teaching them about how to live the way God wanted them to. In this letter to the Philippian church, he asked them to live in **unity**. This meant that he wanted them to work as a team. He wanted them to be kind to each other, and to agree about the important things that God had told them to do. Paul said that God doesn't want us to think we are more important than anyone else. Instead, he wants us to be **humble** and help each other. That's what Jesus is like, and it's what he wants us to be like too.



Read **Philippians chapter 1 verse 27 to chapter 2 verse 11** in your Bible.

What are some of the things Paul says about how we should treat each other? (Ch 2 v 1-4)



How did Jesus show us how to be humble? (Ch 2 v 5-8)

Bible Verse to remember:

He was like God in every way, but he did not think that this was something to use for his own benefit.

(Philippians chapter 2 verses 6-7, ERV)



# Philippians 2:12-30

Paul told the Christians in Philippi to keep doing their best to live the way God wanted them to. God always forgives us when we get things wrong. But if we love him, we will keep trying to do what he says is right. The Holy Spirit helps us to do this. Then people around us will see us doing good things. This will help them to see the truth about Jesus.



Paul also sent the Philippians some news about his friend **Timothy** and **Epaphroditus**. Epaphroditus was a member of the Philippian church. He had been with Paul for a while. Now Paul was sending him back with this letter.



Read **Philippians chapter 2 verses 12-30** in your Bible.

What do you think Paul means when he says we will shine like lights in a dark world? (Ch 2 v 12-16)



What kind of people are Timothy and Epaphroditus? (Ch 2 v 19-30)

Bible Verse to remember:

You must continue to live in a way that gives meaning to your salvation.  
Do this with fear and respect for God.  
(Philippians chapter 2 verse 12, ERV)



# Philippians 3:1-11

Some people were telling the Christians in Philippi that they should be **circumcised**. This was something a man could do to become a Jew. But Paul said the people telling them to do this were wrong. They didn't need to become Jews. They only needed to keep trusting Jesus.



Paul was a Jew himself. In the past he had been very proud of how clever and important he was. But now he said that all those things were like a bin full of rubbish! The only treasure that mattered to him was knowing Jesus.



Read [Philippians chapter 3 verses 1-11](#) in your Bible.

What were the things that Paul used to be proud of? Why do you think he lost all those things? (Ch 3 v 4-8)



What makes us right with God? (Ch 3 v 9)

Bible Verse to remember:

Now I think that all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.

(Philippians chapter 3 verse 8, ERV)



# Philippians 3:12-4:3

Paul said that following Jesus is like running a race. We have to keep going and do our best to do what God wants us to do. We all make mistakes, but we can say sorry to God and keep going. Then we will get all the way to the finish line, and go to be with God in heaven.



Paul also had a message for two women in the Philippian church. Their names were **Euodia** and **Syntyche**. They had fallen out with each other. Paul asked them to make friends again. He asked someone else in the church to help them sort out their disagreement.



Read **Philippians chapter 3 verse 12 – chapter 4 verse 3** in your Bible.

What does Paul say we are waiting for? (Ch 3 v 20-21)



Why does Paul want Euodia and Syntyche to be friends again? (Ch 4 v 2-3)

Bible Verse to remember:

I keep running hard toward the finish line to get the prize that is mine because God has called me through Christ Jesus to life up there in heaven.  
(Philippians chapter 3 verse 14, ERV)





# Philippians 4:4-9

Paul knew that we all go through hard times. Remember, he was in prison when he wrote this letter! He had some good advice to deal with worry and anxiety. Paul said we should always talk to God about our worries. At the same time, we should thank him for all the good things he has given us. God will give us peace when we go to him for help.



We all have to think about hard and painful things sometimes. But Paul said we should make sure we keep thinking about the good things too.



Read **Philippians chapter 4 verses 4-9** in your Bible.

What are some of the things that Paul tells us to do?  
(Ch 4 v 4-9)



What will God do for us when we follow this advice? (Ch 4 v 7 and v 9)

Bible Verse to remember:

Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have.

(Philippians chapter 4 verse 6, ERV)



# Philippians 4:10-23

In Paul's time, prisons didn't feed their prisoners. So the Philippian church had sent Epaphroditus to Paul with some money to buy food. Now, Paul was sending Epaphroditus back to Philippi with this letter (ch 2 v 25). Paul thanked the Christians in Philippi for their



help. He said God would remember that they had been kind to him when he needed them. Paul had been through lots of hard times. But he knew that whatever happened, it was God who gave him the strength to carry on.

Then Paul sent greetings to all the Christians, and finished his letter.



Read [Philippians chapter 4 verses 10-23](#) in your Bible.

What helps Paul to live through any situation? (Ch 4 v 11-13)



What does God think about the gift the Philippians sent to Paul? (Ch 4 v 18-20)

Bible Verse to remember:

Christ is the one who gives me the strength I need to do  
whatever I must do.

(Philippians chapter 4 verse 13, ERV)

