

Study 8

Philippians and Ephesians

Overview

The Church in Philippi is reminded of the marks of heavenly citizenship, reflecting on their and Paul's circumstances.

Ministry of the gospel continues in Asia through Paul's correspondence, praising the majesty of God's plans for the Church.

Before Beginning

What are the different ways that we express partnership with other believers?

How and why is it important that our view of partnership be local and global?

Philippians

Context and Situation:

Acts 16:9-40; 20:1-6; 23:23f; 28:16-31; 2 Cor 11:8f; Phil 1:3-8, 12-23; 2:17, 24ff; 4:1, 10-22

Occasion and Purpose:

Phil 1:5, 12-30; 2:1-11, 14-30; 3:1-19; 4:1-7, 10-18

Key ideas:

Phil 2:5-11; 3:17-21

Ephesians

Context and Situation:

Acts 19:8-10; 20:17-38; Eph 1:15; 3:2; 4:21-22

Occasion and Purpose:

Eph 1:9-10; 3:1, 8; 4:1-16, 17f; 5:3-6; 8-11, 22-6:9

Key ideas:

Eph 1:9-23; 2:1-10, 16, 19-22; 3:6-8, 19f; 4:7-13

Christ and the Church

Answer from both Epistles:

What attitudes and behaviours did Christ show on earth? How did God respond?

Why is important for Christians to follow Christ's example?

How should Christians manifest their citizenship of heaven?

How does the representation of the Church in these letters tell us about its nature and function?

Extension:

Read 'Thessalonians, Epistle to the', 'Day of the Lord', and 'Eschatology' in the *New Bible Dictionary*

Homework:

Read Colossians.