

Sunday Series Shifts From a Study of Prayer to the Letter to the Philippians

A vision in the night led the apostle Paul to take the message of the gospel to Macedonia (Acts 16:10). So, in obedience to the Spirit of God's leading, Paul, Silas, and Timothy sailed from Troas on a short journey to a place called Neapolis, a seaport town in northern Greece and the entrance to the continent of Europe.

The importance of this event was that the gospel would enter into this part of the world for the very first time. If this had not happened, most of us, who have any European descent in our heritage, might never have heard the gospel.

As was the common practice and plan of the apostle, Paul, and his traveling companions, they would look for a synagogue to go to in order to share the good news about Christ. During the synagogue service on the Sabbath, *"the reading of the Torah was, of course, one of the focal points. Today we are familiar with an annual cycle according to which the Torah is divided into 54 portions, each one to be read in succession every week throughout the year. The reading from the Torah was followed by a reading from the Prophets which was selected (and later standardized) because it corresponded in some way with the prevailing theme of the weekly Torah reading. If there were Priests or Levites present, they were summoned first to read from the Torah, after which the readings would be continued by laymen. Each reader recited a benediction before and after his turn to read. As a working knowledge of Hebrew diminished among the people, it became customary to provide a running translation into Aramaic. These translations were free-form, often including explanatory comments by the translators. In addition to the translations, it was common for learned men in the synagogue to expound the passages read, since the purpose of the synagogue was as much for study as it was for prayer"* (Netivyah).

The synagogue service opened up a door for the apostle, Paul, to expound on the Scriptures. Remember that he was a highly educated man and well-known. His celebrity and testimony would have had a great impact upon any hearers, but more importantly, his expounding upon the Scriptures would have been welcomed. It was then that the apostle could speak to the claim that Jesus was the Messiah and had come to die for the sins of man. The problem was, however, that there was no synagogue in Philippi for the Jews to meet.

Consequently, the Jews in the city met on the banks of the Gangites River, a source of fresh water for ritual cleansings. "That is where Paul and his companions went, finding a group of women assembled for prayers. One was named Lydia, an apparently prosperous Gentile businesswoman who worshiped the God of the Jews but who knew nothing of their Messiah, Jesus Christ (Acts 16:14). When Paul spoke to the group about Jesus, Lydia responded with faith. Afterwards, her home became the gathering place for all the early converts in Philippi" (Acts 16:40). (Jeremiah, 1653)

There is much more to the background to this rich letter as we discover its truths, verse by verse. Please come and join us for our new series on "Philippians."

~Pastor Alan

<https://netivyah.org/paul-and-the-synagogue/> - Netivyah Bible Instruction Ministry, Jerusalem,

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Jeremiah, David. *The Jeremiah Study Bible*. Worthy Publishing, 2013.



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January Events:

January 6th: Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 a.m.

January 12th-14th: Youth Group Teen Meltdown in Iowa

January 18th: Ladies Council Meeting 10 am

January 21st: Sam Worley and Mike Strick Deacons Dinner after Church

January 25th: Helping Hands of Faith 6:30-8:00 pm

January 28th: Terry Theiss and Chuck Richardson Deacon Dinner after Church

Every Tuesday:

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Ladies Quilting 1 pm

Every Wednesday:

Prayer Meeting 6 pm

AWANA 6:30-8:00 pm

Every Sunday Night:

Bible Study 5 pm

Youth Group 6:30-8:00

MISSIONS

Joy Meadows is a Faith based, non-profit corporation established on August 30, 2017 to provide a Foster Care Community. Their mission is to serve Foster Families with community support, housing, and resources so that Foster children can find stability, healing, and joy.



There are currently over 6,850 children in Foster Care in the state of Kansas and that number is increasing while the number of Foster homes are decreasing. Joy Meadows is fulfilling their mission through their housing program, which is development, construction, and maintenance of homes. A resource program which meets the needs of Foster parents and Foster children by providing therapy, extra-curricular activities,

mentors, and social engagement. Also, with community support by partnering with child placement agencies, private organizations, and faith community to provide sustainable and systemic support for Foster Families.

Joy Meadows values include trusting God to do big things, giving generously, working with excellence, facilitating

hope, creating community support, leading in service, and believing everyone counts.

This is the first year Maywood Community Church has supported Joy Meadows with our year end giving. You can find out more by going to joymeadows.org.

Please pray for Joy Meadows, their staff, people they serve, and volunteers.

Elder Report

Greetings,

Happy New Year to all of you! We hope you are all excited to start a new year.

2023 was a year of change for the Church, and we are very appreciative that so many of you have stepped up and volunteered. Also, it has been great to see how faithful everyone has stayed to the Church as we transitioned to a new pastor. It is a joy to be a part of this congregation.

Below are the goals the Elders have established for the first third of the year. Please bathe these goals in prayer and ask for God's will to be done and for Him to lead you to action in the Church.

Start and complete leadership training for the Elders and Deacons

This training will be led by Pastor Alan and will occur during Sunday school.

Restart Adult, Children, and Youth Sunday School

Please pray for direction and volunteers as we start Sunday school for the youth.

Also, new adult classes will be added in the first quarter.

Deacon Dinners

Meet your Deacon dinners will be held again this year starting on January 21 and again on January 28 and February 4. Please watch for additional information as the date draws closer.

Church Business Updates

The insurance claim for the building is under review with the insurance company, and Mike Strick was able to help the investigator finalize his follow-up report regarding the damage to the rafters. The insurance company has told us they will contact us with an updated settlement the week of January 8th.

AED training was completed.

Tom Elliot repaired the Church van's idle arm pulley.

God Bless,

The Elders

David, Don, Tom, David

December Financial Corner:

We were over budget on Expenses for the month of December.

We were over budget on Giving for the month.

Youth Group

We started a new study on Who is Jesus? We will continue with this study throughout January. We had a Christmas Party on December 19th. We then had a Christmas break that aligned with Piper School District for two Sundays.

January 12th-14th the Youth Group will travel to Iowa for a Teen Meltdown. There will not be Youth Group the night we arrive home.