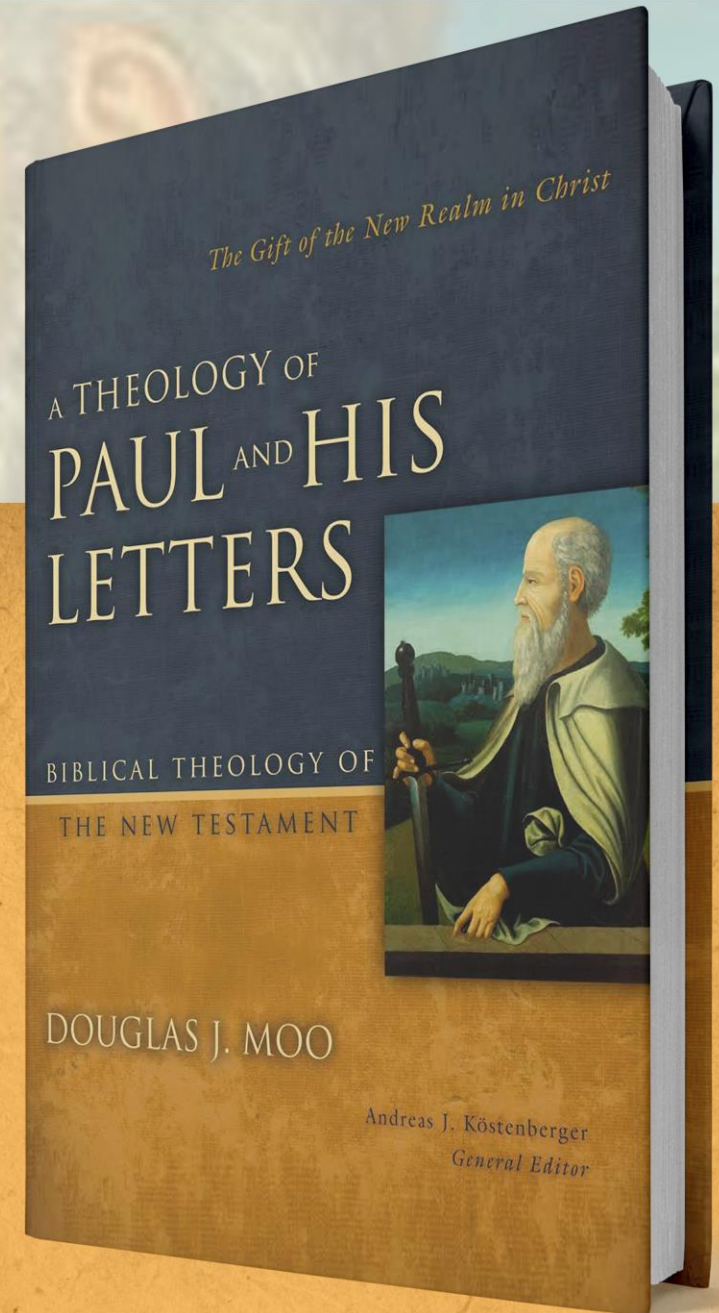


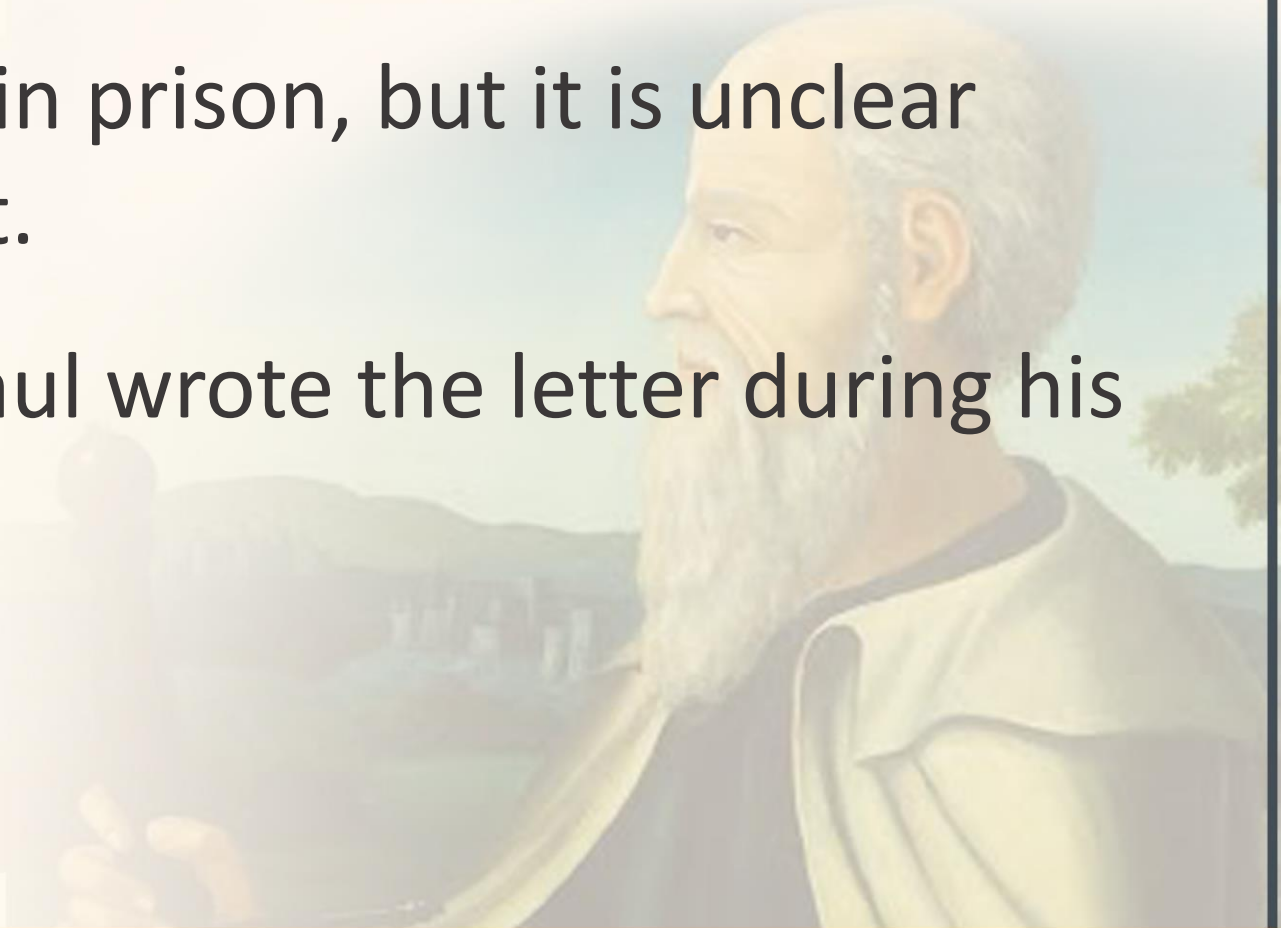
CHAPTER 13

Philippians



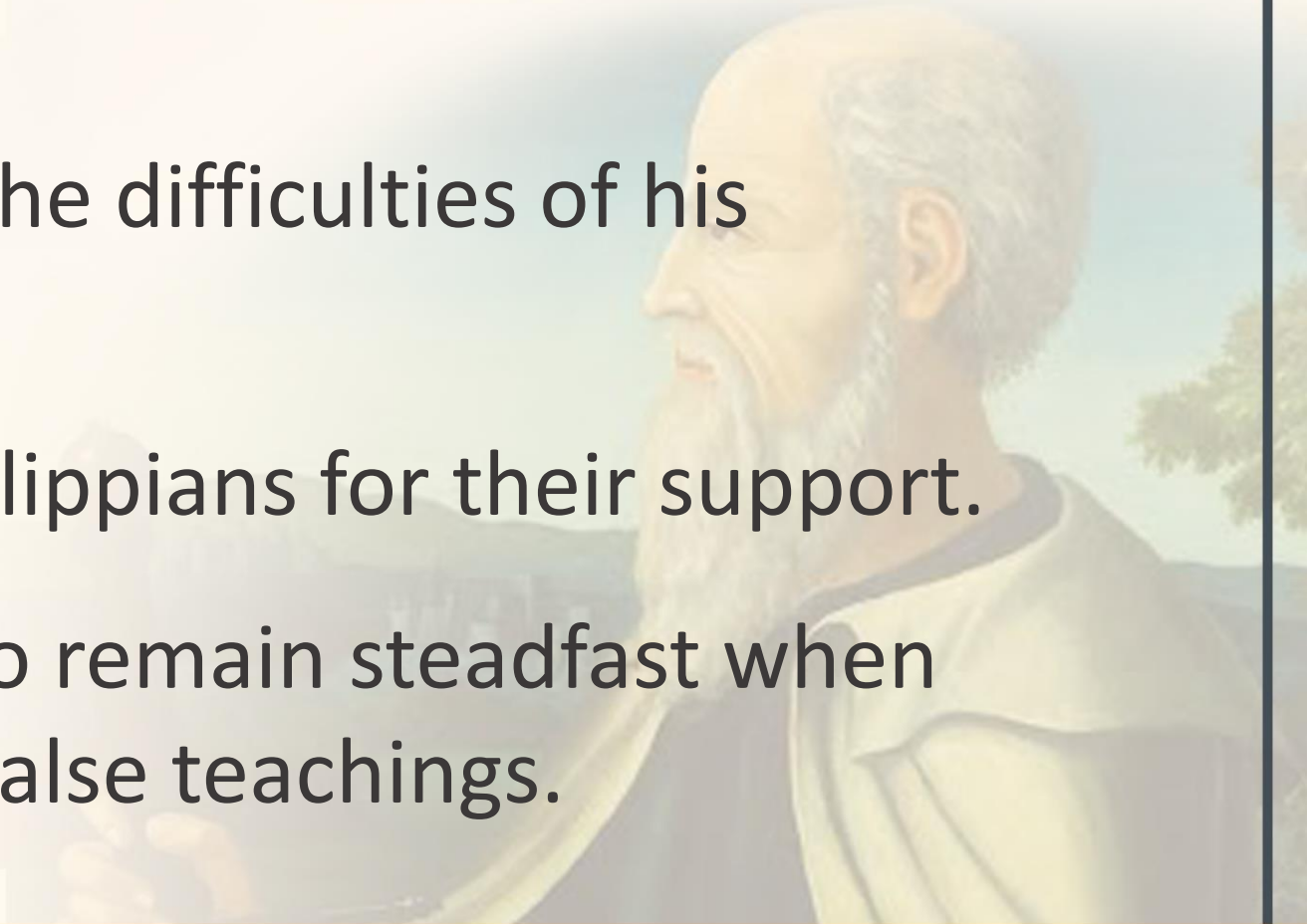
Locating the Letter

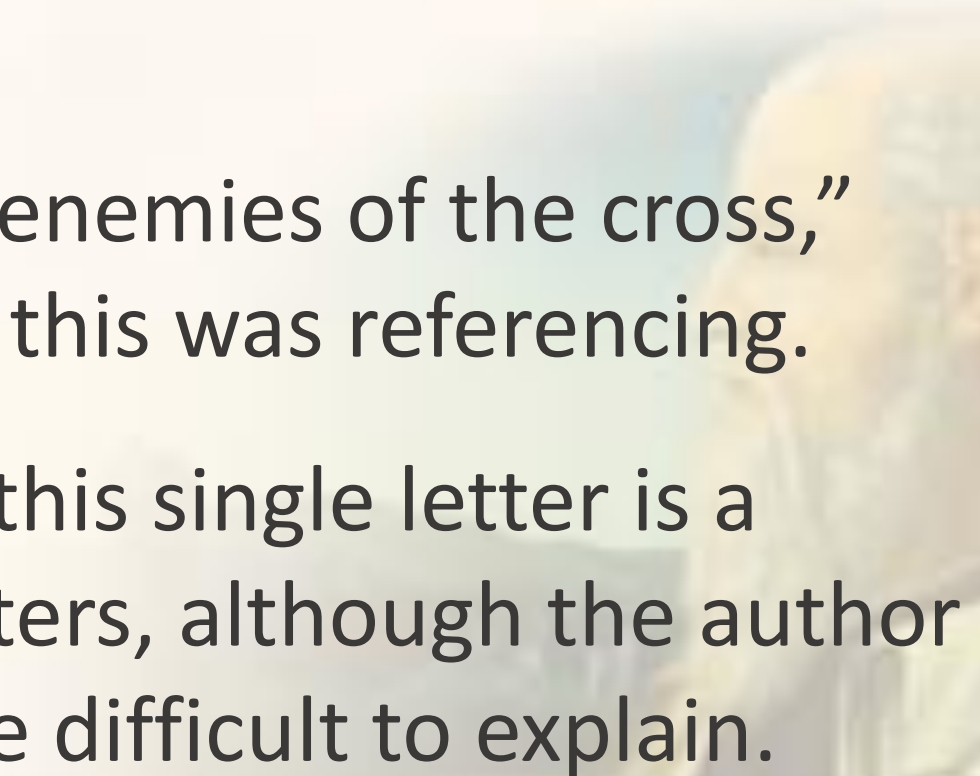
- Paul wrote the letter while in prison, but it is unclear during which imprisonment.
- The author believed that Paul wrote the letter during his imprisonment in Rome.



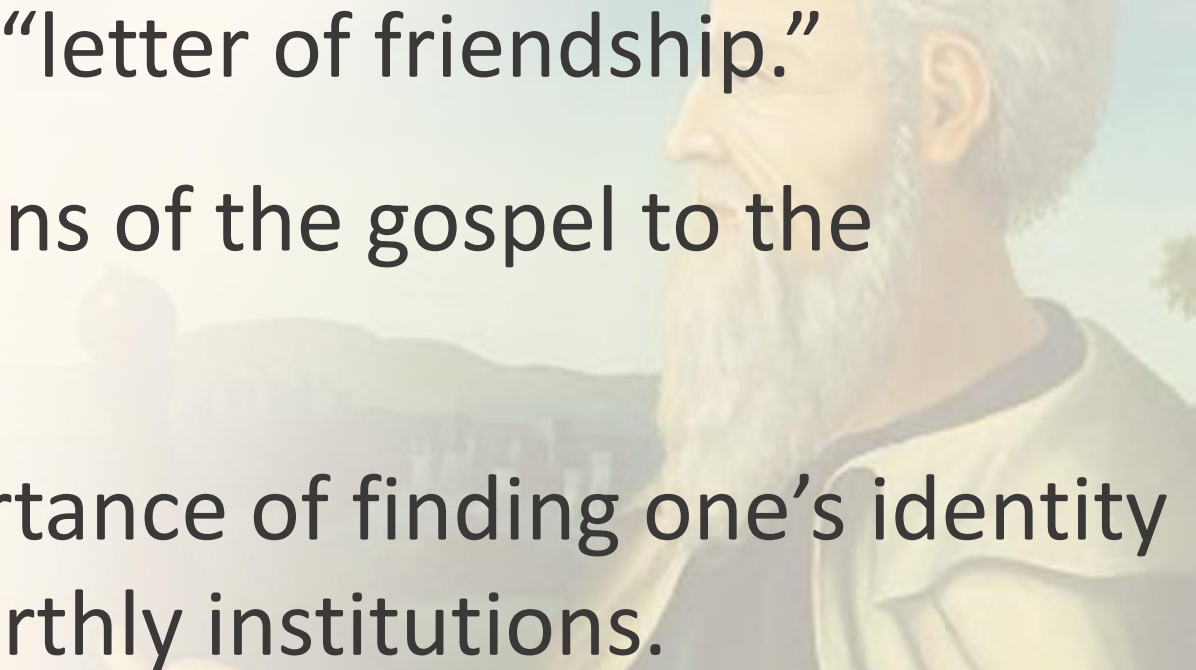
Isolating the Issues

- Paul wrote to share about the difficulties of his imprisonment.
- He wanted to thank the Philippians for their support.
- He also encouraged them to remain steadfast when faced with opposition and false teachings.



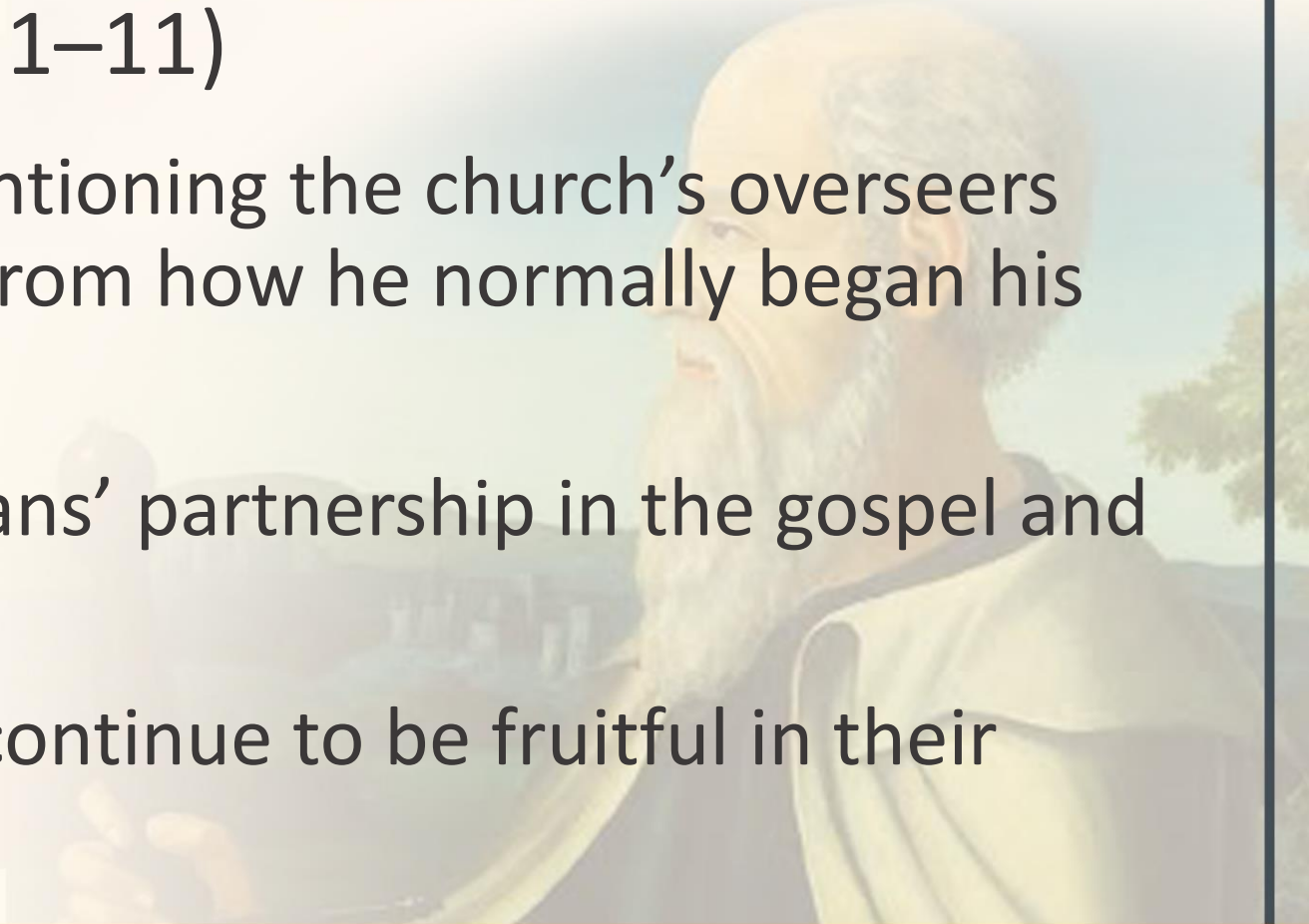
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- The Philippians were influenced by Roman culture, institutions, and values.
 - They were also faced with “enemies of the cross,” although it is not clear who this was referencing.
 - Some scholars believe that this single letter is a combination of multiple letters, although the author believed this would be more difficult to explain.

Analyzing the Argument

- Philippians is considered a “letter of friendship.”
 - It focuses on the implications of the gospel to the Christian community.
 - Paul emphasized the importance of finding one’s identity in heaven rather than in earthly institutions.
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Paul, the Philippians, and the Gospel (1:1–26)

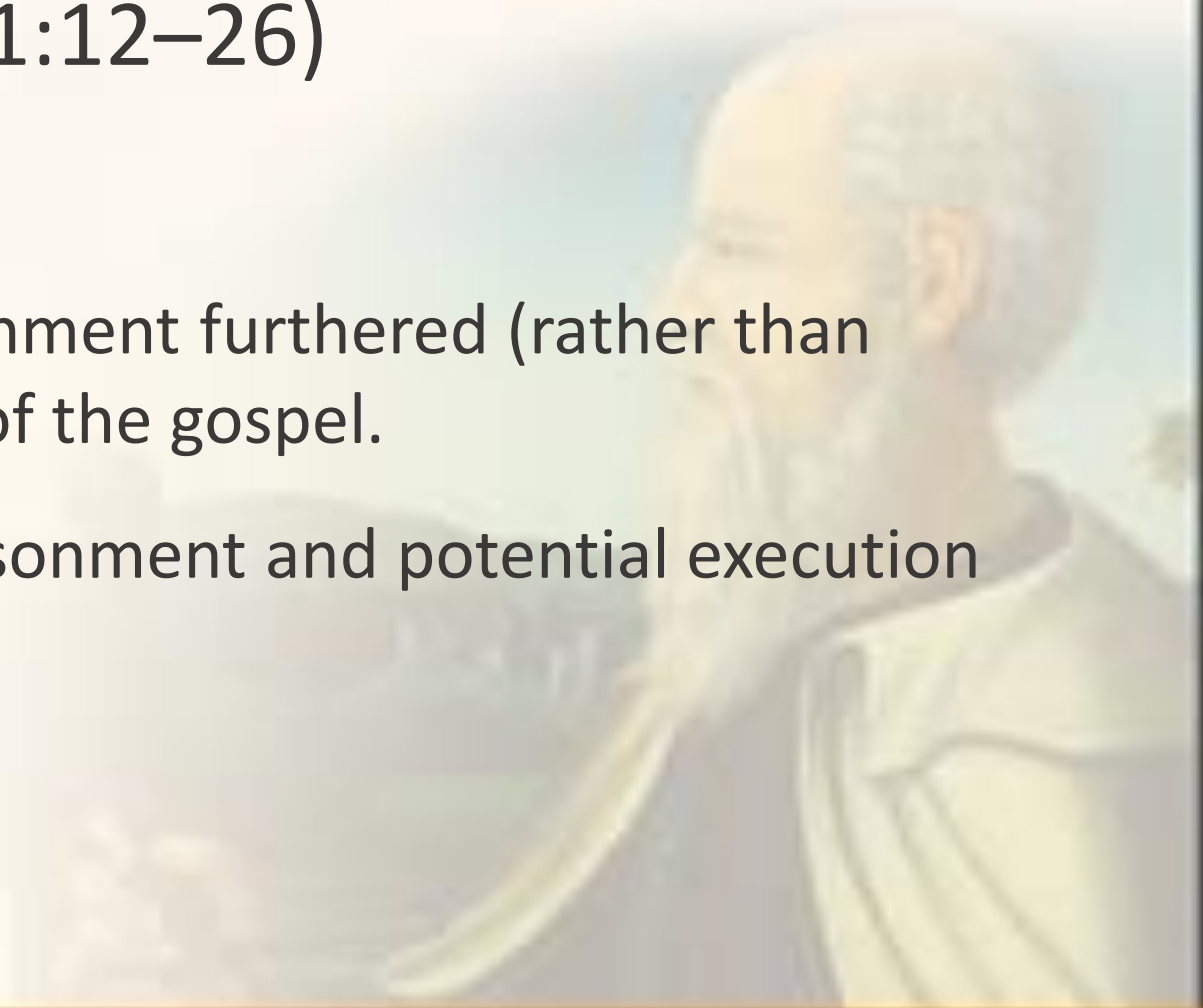
- Fellowship in the Gospel (1:1–11)
 - Paul began the letter by mentioning the church's overseers and deacons, which differs from how he normally began his letters.
 - Paul celebrated the Philippians' partnership in the gospel and his relationship with them.
 - He prayed that they would continue to be fruitful in their missions.



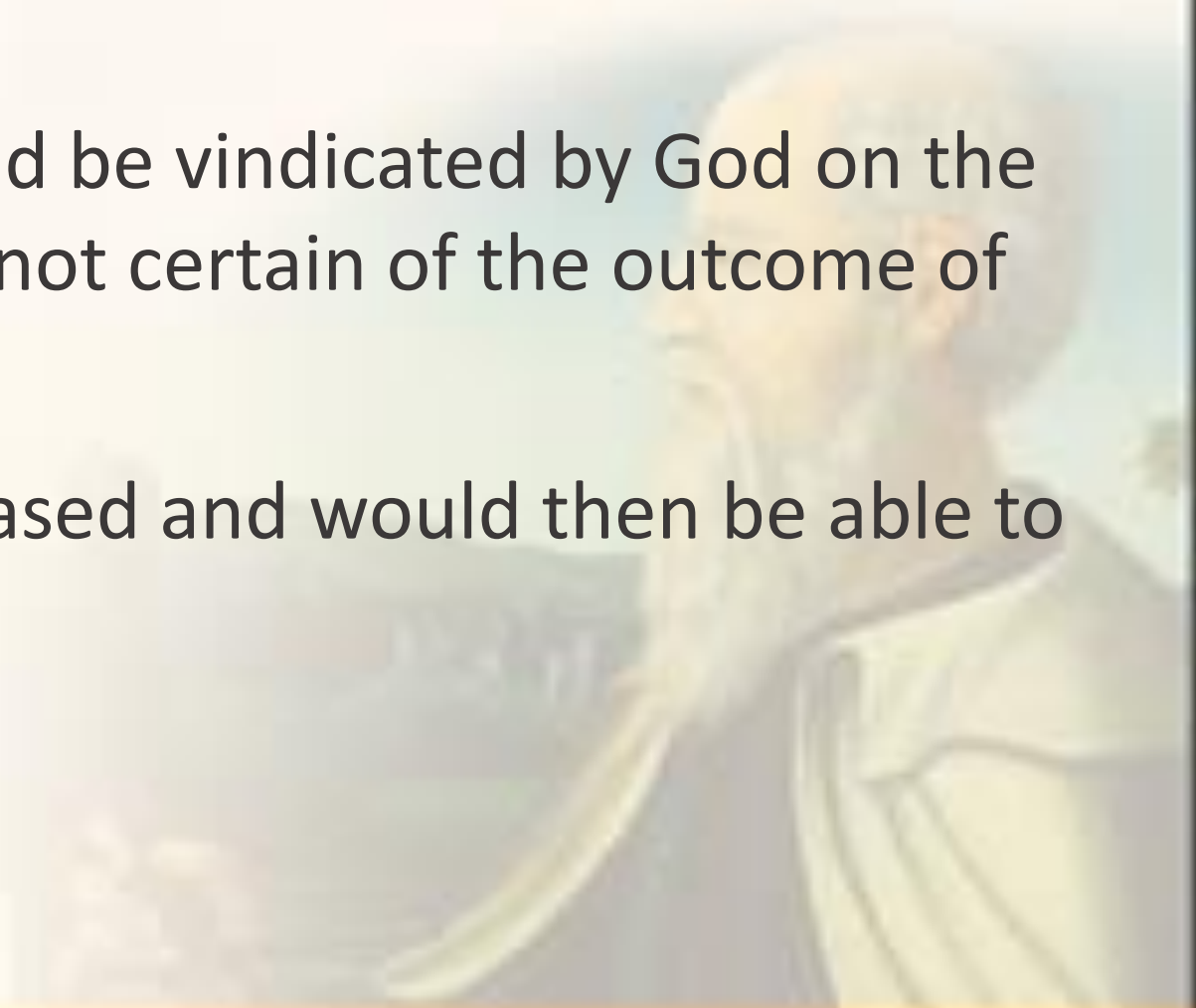
- The Advance of the Gospel (1:12–26)

- This passage has two parts:

1. Paul celebrated that imprisonment furthered (rather than hindered) his advancement of the gospel.
2. Paul reviewed how his imprisonment and potential execution might affect the Philippians.

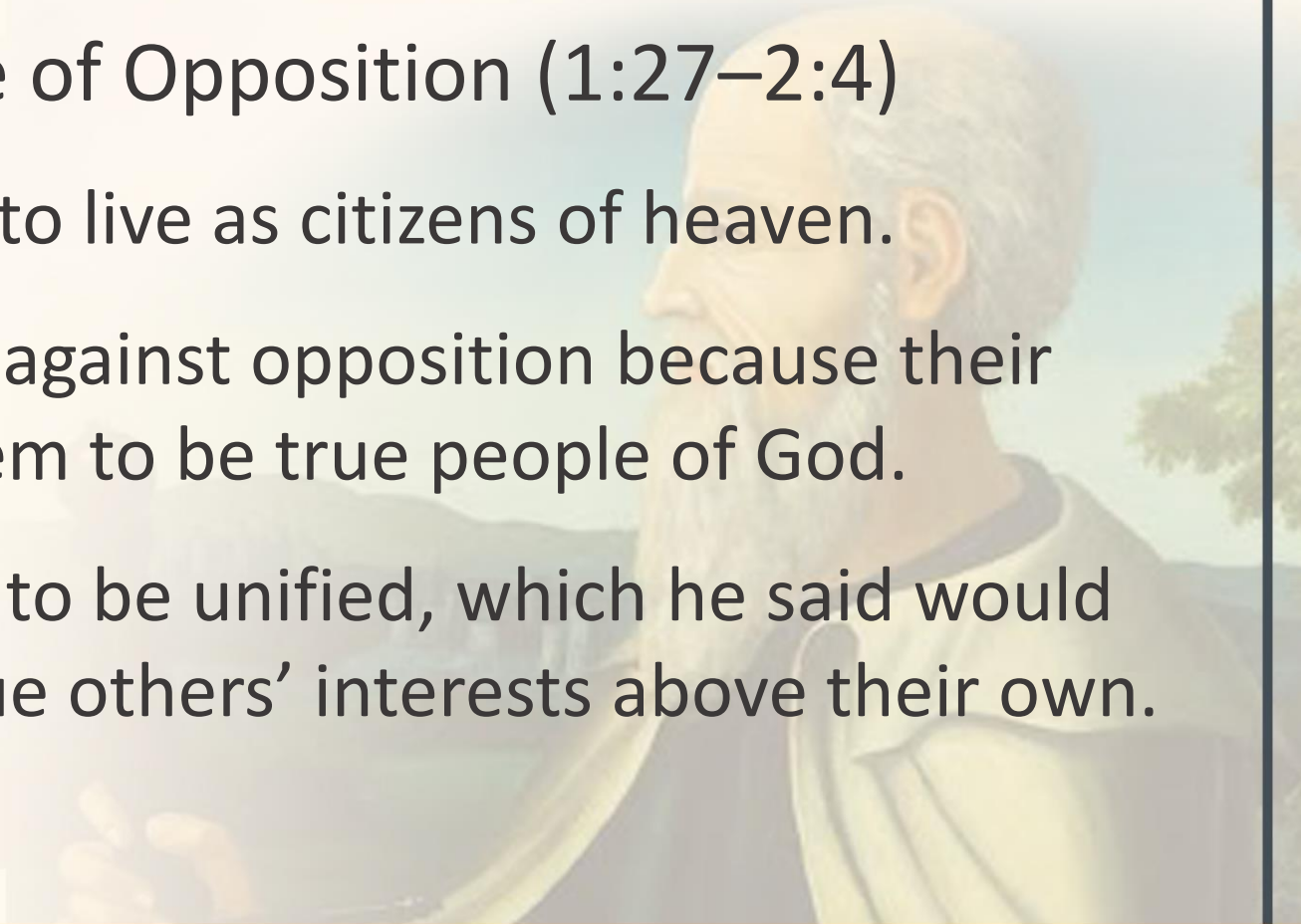


- Paul was certain that he would be vindicated by God on the day of judgment, but he was not certain of the outcome of his trial.
- He believed he might be released and would then be able to visit the Philippians.



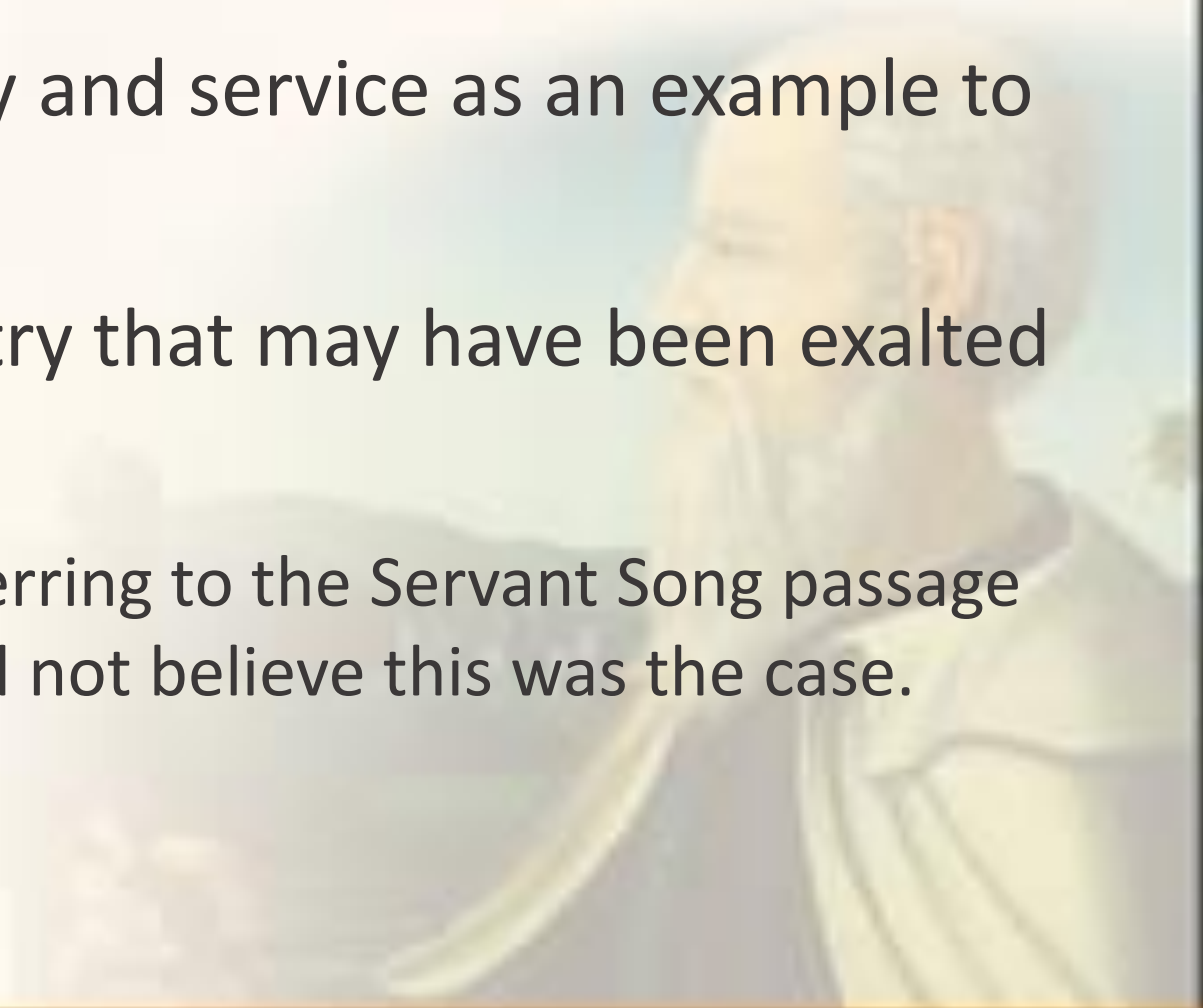
Living Gospel-Focused Lives (1:27–4:1)

- Unity and Humility in the Face of Opposition (1:27–2:4)
 - Paul exhorted the Philippians to live as citizens of heaven.
 - He encouraged them to unite against opposition because their steadfastness would show them to be true people of God.
 - Paul repeated his exhortation to be unified, which he said would happen when they would value others' interests above their own.

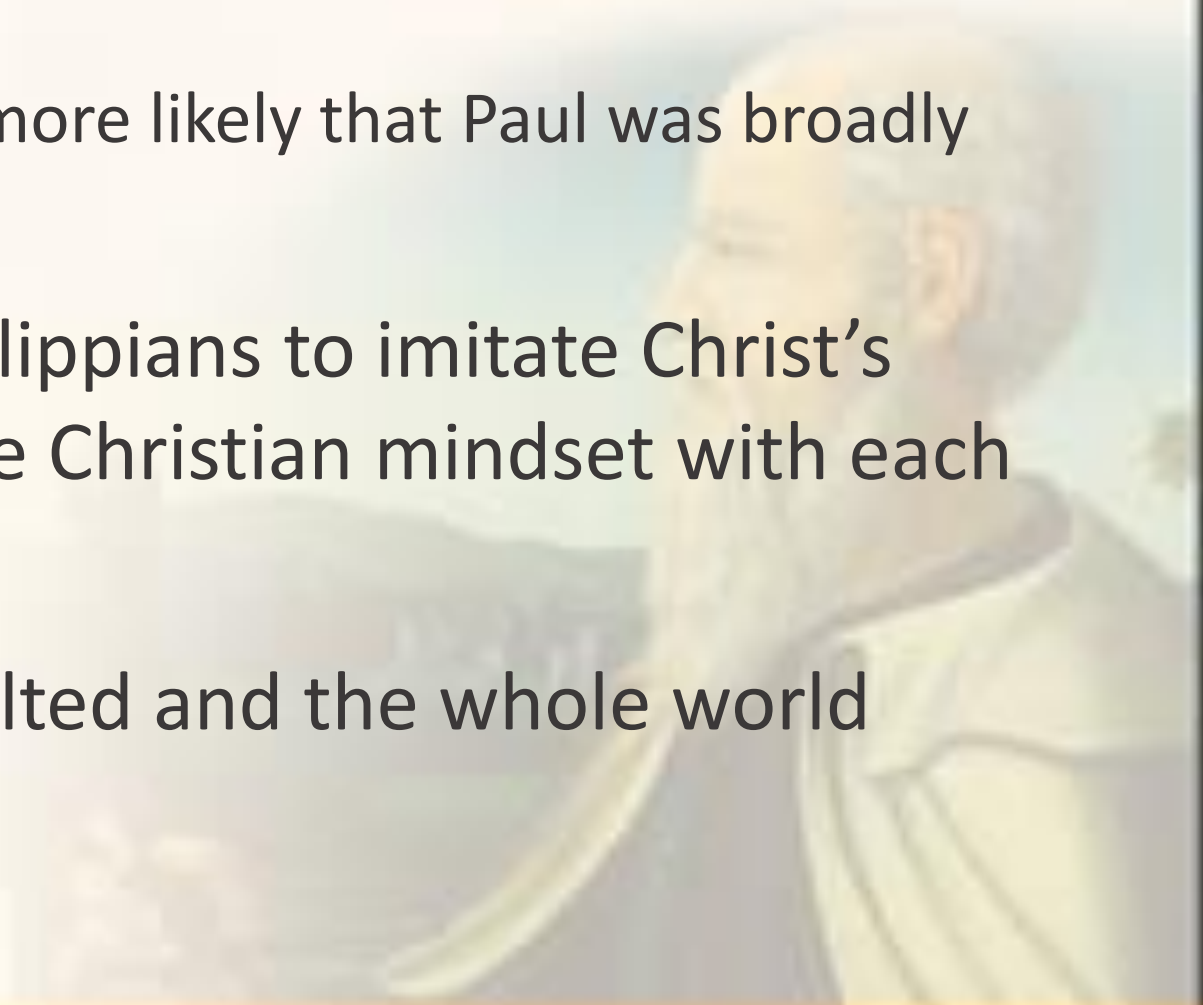


- The Gospel Story and Its Significance (2:5–11)

- Paul outlined Christ's humility and service as an example to the Philippians.
- He included a portion of poetry that may have been exalted prose or taken from a hymn.
 - It is possible that Paul was referring to the Servant Song passage from Isaiah, but the author did not believe this was the case.

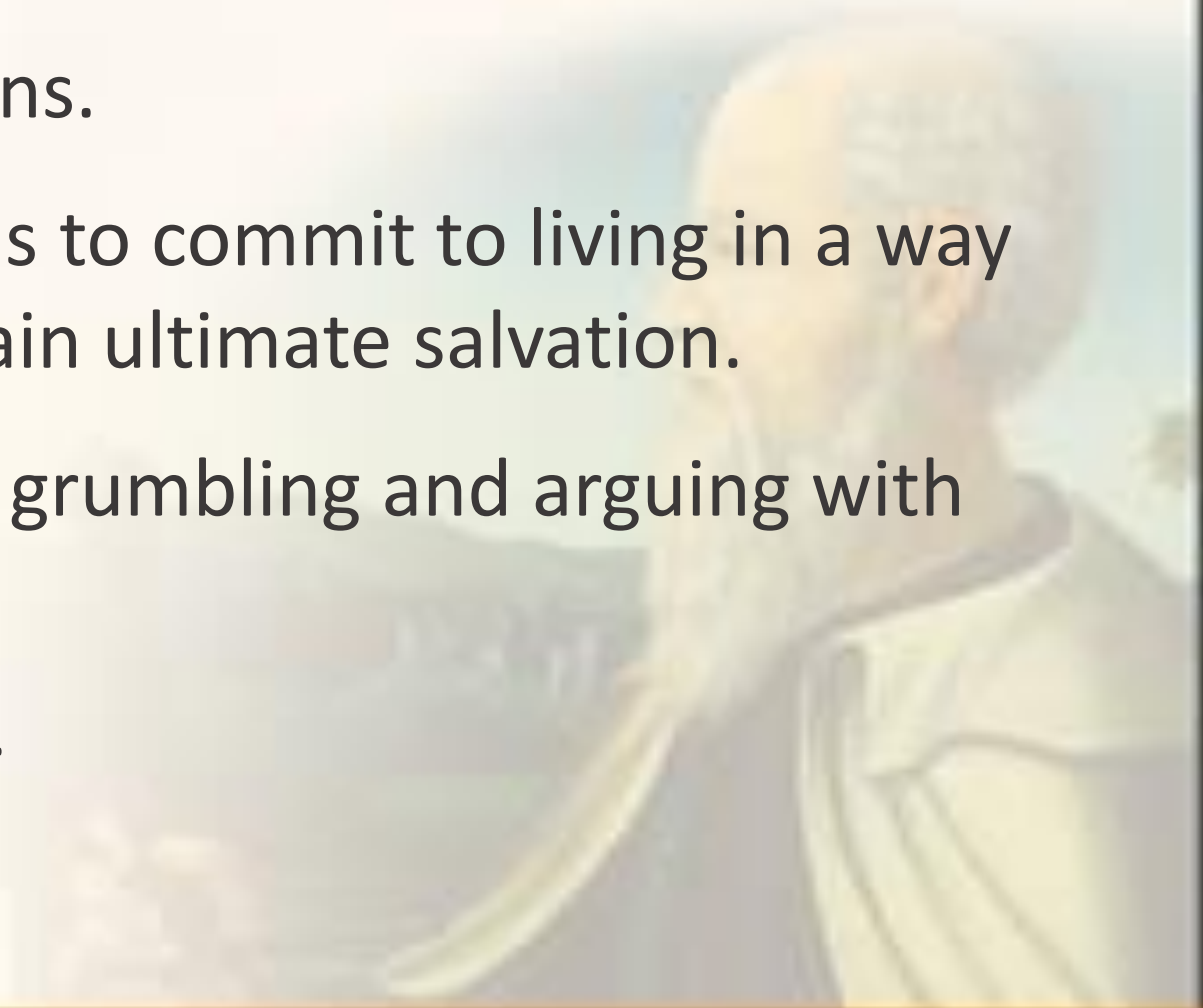


- Some scholars connect the passage to Genesis, which the author also did not support.
- The author believed that it is more likely that Paul was broadly explaining his Christology.
- Paul was encouraging the Philippians to imitate Christ's humility and to also adopt the Christian mindset with each other.
- He taught that Christ was exalted and the whole world responds to his exaltation.



- Renewed Call to Gospel Living (2:12–18)

- Paul continued his exhortations.
- He encouraged the Philippians to commit to living in a way that would allow them to attain ultimate salvation.
- He also warned them against grumbling and arguing with one another.
 - He wanted them to be unified.



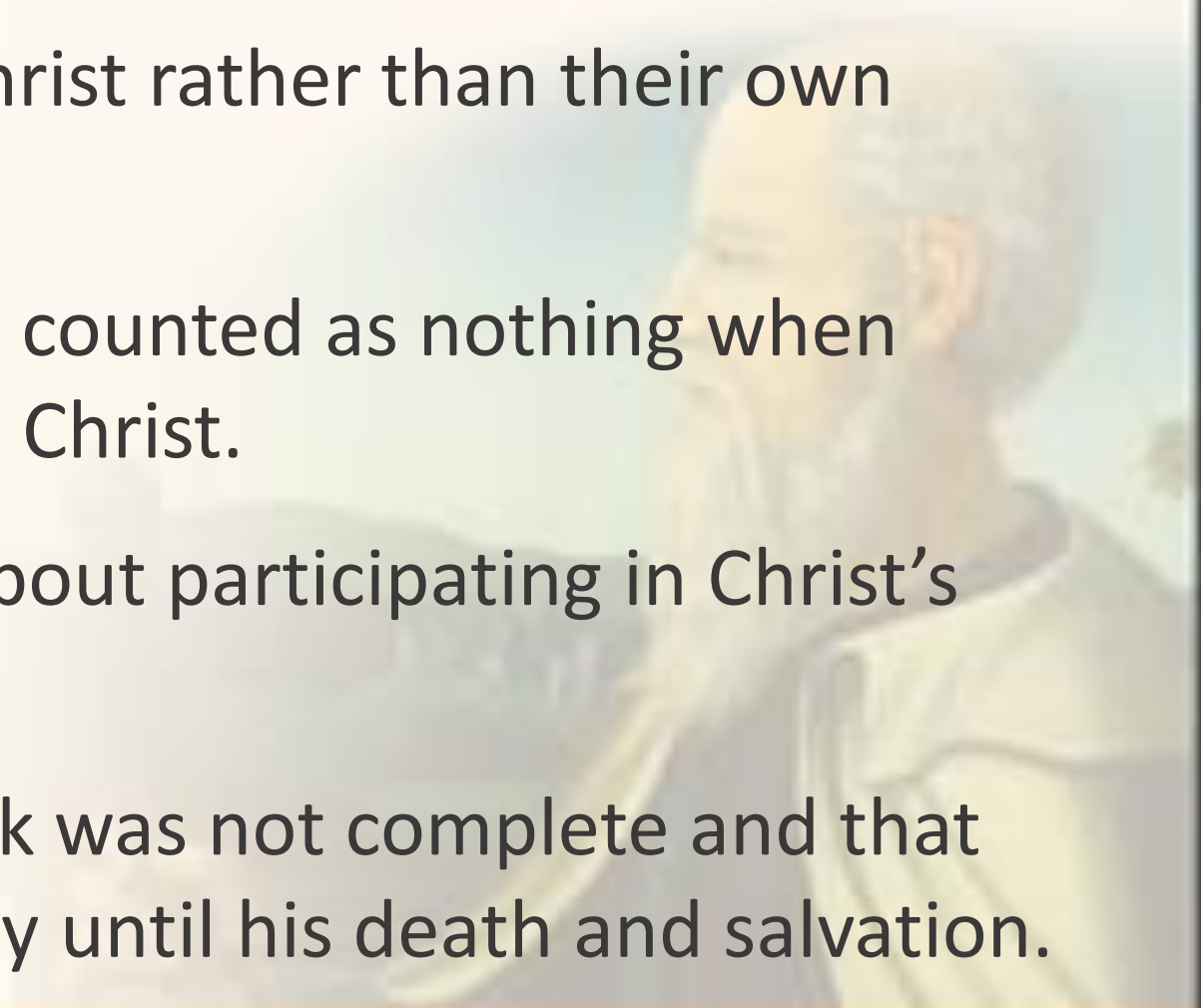


- Examples of Gospel Faithfulness (2:19–30)

- The author believed that Paul mentioned Timothy and Epaphroditus as examples of faithful gospel living.
- Paul's praise of Timothy and Epaphroditus align with his exhortations for Christian living.

• A Serious Challenge to Gospel Truth (3:1–14)

- Paul warned the Philippians against false teachers.
- He taught them to boast in Christ rather than their own accomplishments.
- He explained that all his gains counted as nothing when compared to righteousness in Christ.
- Paul repeated his teachings about participating in Christ's resurrection.
- He assured them that his work was not complete and that he would continue his ministry until his death and salvation.





- Final Call to Gospel Conformity (3:15–4:1)

- Paul encouraged the Philippians to adopt the viewpoint of mature Christians, to follow their example, and to avoid bad examples.
- He taught that they could live counterculturally because of the assurance of God's promise.

Final Gospel Matters (4:2–23)

- Paul offered advice to the quarreling Euodia and Syntyche.
- He thanked the Philippians for their gift while also teaching them that Christ was all he needed.
 - This was likely to prevent people from believing that he was making money off their gifts or from viewing him as a “client.”

