



1. Who is the writer and/or speaker ?
2. When was it written and/or said ?
3. To whom was it written and/or spoken ?
4. What are the major natural divisions ?
5. What is the repeated key word ?
6. What simple sentence sums it all up ?
7. What is an application to my life today ?

The book of Philippians

1. **The writer** : Saul of Tarsis, proud and zealous Israelite and member of the party of the Pharisee (3:5-6), was converted by Jesus (Ac9:5-6). He left all (3:7) and answered the call to be a missionary (Ac13:2-3). "Saul" (the big one) was then called "Paul" (the small one) since his first missionary trip (Ac13:9). Paul (1:1) went to preach the Gospel in the city of Philippi in Macedonia (Greece) in the middle of his second missionary trip (Ac16:12).
2. **The date** : The references to prison (1:7, 13-14, 2:12, 17, 4:14 & 22) and the hope of getting out soon (1:25-26 & 2:23-24) point to the first imprisonment of Paul during the years 60-62 AD, ten years after his first visit and the first converts.
3. **The readers** : All the Christians at Philippi (1:1 a) were meeting for worship under the oversight of the local elders (bishops) and with the help of deacons of the assembly (1:1 b). This is a typical Christian assembly, just like today.
4. **Natural divisions** : Six **REASONS** to rejoice together
 - Five prayers for the assembly, 1:1-11*
 - Four forms of persecution, 1:12-30*
 - Three exhortations to unity, 2:1-30*
 - Two warnings, 3:1-4:1*
 - One way to walk, 4:2-19*
 - The blessing, 4:20-23*
5. **Repeated key words** : You 66x, Joy 32x, Same 10x & Mind (Greek = φρονέω) 10x
6. **The theme** : The unity of Christians is a source of our joy : "Make my joy complete by being of the same mind (φρονέω), maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose." Philippians 2:2
7. **The application** : "Have this attitude (φρονέω) in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus." Philippians 2:5