

Philippians: When and Where Written

Traditional View:

Rome (62AD)

- For:
- Marcionite Prologue found in Latin manuscript ca 144 AD indicates that Paul was “writing to them from prison in Rome”
 - Statements about a Imperial Guard in 1:13 (Praetorium) and the Emperor’s household in 4:22 match with Rome
 - Privileges to write letters and have friends visit suggest being in a home rather than prison
 - A possible 4th Missionary journey
 - Desired to visit Philippi (Phil.2:24) and Spain (Rom.15:28) after release.
 - Church historians and works: Eusebius, Clement of Rome, the Actus Petri Vercellensis and the Muratorian Canon all indicate there was.
- AGAINST:
- No 4th journey recorded in Acts
 - Not enough time to make 4 journeys back and forth to Philippi

Recent Views:

Ephesus (55AD - 3rd Missionary Journey)

- FOR:
- Too far from Rome for the 4 journeys back and forth
 - 3-4 weeks to Rome vs. several days to Philippi from Ephesus
 - Assume put into protective custody during riot (Acts 19:30-31)
- AGAINST:
- Ephesus was a senatorial province with a governor
 - Word Praetorium doesn’t fit the scenario
 - No mention of an imprisonment in Ephesus during Acts
 - Rome imprisonment lasted 2 years. Enough time for 4 journeys (4 months total) to happen
 - If in protective custody why would Paul seem to be wondering if he was going to survive? (Phil 1:23)

Caesarea: (58 AD)

- FOR:
- Had a Praetorium (Imperial Guards).
- AGAINST:
- Remote area would there be enough Christians to side against Paul (Phil 1:15-18)
 - Paul’s excitement about spread of gospel indicates that it could have been a larger area where the spread of the gospel would have had a significant impact as in Rome. (Phil 1:12-13)

Bruce, F.F., Philippians New International Biblical Commentary pp. 11,22
Tyndale Bible Dictionary, p. 1031

Paul’s Imprisonments

City:	Philippi	Jerusalem	Caesarea	Rome
Date:	50 AD	58 AD	58-60 AD	60-62 AD
Reference:	Acts 16:19-40	Acts 21:27 → 23:30	Acts 23:23 → 26:30	Acts 27:1 → 28:30
Length of Stay:	1 day	1 day	2 years	2 years
Privileges:	None (beaten)	None (beaten)	Friends visit	Friends visit - own home
Evangelistic Activities Happening:	Yes (jailer)	No reference	No reference	Yes
Co-worker Probabilities:	Silas	Sopater, Aristarchus, Gaius, Timothy, Tychicus, Trophimus, Luke	Same as Jerusalem	Aristarchus, Timothy, Luke, Demas, Justus, Epaphras, Onesimus, Tychicus, Epaphroditus, Mark
Expectation of Release:	Released next day	Released for 1 day	None	Possible