

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

News From Prison

How do you get your news these days?

- TV, internet (including social media), email, text
- Anyone read newspapers or listen to news radio?

How about personal updates from family & friends?

- Any written on paper, delivered via USPS?

What was common 20 years ago seems antiquated today

- Except for Christmas News Letters & Birthday Cards

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2000 years ago, **moveable type was still 1400 years away**

- **No** mass-produced printed material
- **No** radio, TV, cell phones or Internet
- **Public proclamations** were read aloud in the town square
(It was mouth to mouth from there)

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King Philip of Macedonia conquered and named Philippi in **168 B.C.**

About **100 years before the Apostle Paul** showed up there, Octavian conquered it and made it a **Roman military outpost.**

- People there were **Roman Citizens with special privileges**
- Not a commercial center, there were not **enough Jews for a synagogue**

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Paul hadn't planned to go there... but **God changed his plans** (Acts 16)

- Lydia & others came to Christ there
- Paul & Silas were arrested, beaten & jailed
- The Jailer & his family were saved
- City leaders were in serious danger because Paul & Silas were Roman citizens
(This may have prevented future reprisals against Christians there)

Eleven years later Paul wrote them from jail in Rome

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To receive a written, personal letter...

From an important person far away, was a **BIG Deal!**

- Like an unexpected **Skype** on the big screen **from Billy Graham**

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As we do in Life Group each week...

- Try to **imagine yourself among those people**, back then...
- Realizing we're about to hear a **letter** read from **The Apostle Paul**
- First, **some thoughts** about this letter **by Eugene Peterson**

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The Letter

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Each of you has a copy of this letter in your Bible

Please ponder it this week in your favorite translation

- **NIV, NAS, ESV, NKJV, HOLMAN, KJV, RSV, The Message**
- *Of all of them (My preference)*

As you do, **please ask God** to give you insight into **what He wants us to hear, understand, receive and apply** in our lives...

- *Yours, Mine & Ours together*
- **And how we can give ourselves to His will...**
- **Every day**