Murray Baptist Church – 2/23/21 – Bible Study Outline – Philippians 1:1-15

At the beginning of the book of Philippians, it is the tag team of Paul and Timothy who are identified as the co-authors of this letter.

It is written to church body and the church leaders. But there is a particular title that they use which sets up the readers for the content they are about to receive.

In Paul’s writings throughout the New Testament, he shares various things about himself he identifies himself in different ways. The key takeaway from this letter to the Philippians is that he identifies himself as a servant. Servant does not men powerless. Servant does not mean less than or beneath someone else. Servant simply means a willingness to serve.

**Philippians 1:1-11 Key Ideas**

* Paul extends grace and peace (1:2. CR – Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2; Phil. 1:2; Col. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:2; Tit. 1:4; Philemon 1:3). Peter and John also used this greeting at times (1 Pet. 1:2; 2 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 1:4)
	+ Grace is unmerited or undeserved favor.
	+ Peace is something that Paul instructs us can surpass all understanding and at the same time can guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7).
* Paul gives thank for them in his prayers (1:3) for…
	+ I thank God for bringing you to mind. This extends through verse 7
	+ Partnership in building the Kingdom of God… and
	+ What was the Importance? – To understand the same things (v.6) – The God who starts is the God who finishes!
		- It speaks to God’s faithfulness.
		- He won’t abandon us.
		- Paul invites us to expand and build on how he has categorized God.
* Paul is content which reflect in his prayers for them (1:9)
	+ He didn’t pray for his own situation, but theirs
		- Paul doesn’t pray for himself to get out of prison but that others might come out of spiritual prison
	+ That your love grows, that your insight increases (depth of insight)
	+ Your benefit is spiritual discernment so that they are pure and blameless on the day of Christ, and filled with the fruit of righteousness, that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God
		- Does God praise or get happy?
		- If Luke mentions that there is more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents that 99 righteous person…and…
		- If salvation was not intended for the angels and Peter 1:12 reminds us that pertaining to such Angels long to look into these things…then…
		- The angels take their praise example from God. If the angels can’t rejoice over salvation for themselves yet they are rejoicing in heaven over things they themselves cannot relate to, then they have to be modeling what God is showing them. Therefore, God praises and gets happy over the unforced response of his people who turn to him through his son, Jesus Christ.

**Verses 12-15 – Key Idea - A New Perspective**

V.12 tells us that Paul believes that what is happening to him is actually helping him advance the Gospel. Paul’s mention of the palace guard has at least two implications in versus 12-13.

1. The palace guard were made up of roman soldiers who a significant number of had become Christian.
2. Philippi was noted by some scholars as being a colony of retired Roman soldiers.

Consequently, both from an founding perspective and an outreach perspective the population of soldiers was an important group for Paul to minister to. He could also adequately encourage those who were afraid of persecution due to their positions.

Increased boldness – Paul relates in verse 15 that his handcuff, his chains, the objects of his incarceration are making him bolder in presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul becomes an example of what John as trying to explain that the truth shall make you free. It might not set you free, but it can make you free. You can be imprisoned physically without being imprisoned mentally. Malcolm made reference that while we have many people physically incarcerated in America, there are more who are walking around free but are still locked up mentally.

**Takeaways**

1. Your perspective on things is important in how you handle and communicate what you are going through.
2. Christ has called us to be servants – what type of reservations do you have about that? What will help you get through those reservations?
3. Are you able to allow your circumstances to increase your boldness to share and witness about God? Can you do that in a way people can relate to?