

7-10-24 – Philippians – Week 1

Addressed by Paul & Timothy to “all God’s holy people ... in Philippi”

- Likely, Timothy was present w/ Paul. “I” is throughout.
- Imprisoned in Ephesus, Caesarea, Rome. Likely, Rome.

Philippi is a “Roman colony & the leading city in district of Macedonia.” v.12

Acts 16 – “⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.”

- Paul, Silas & Timothy founded a church in Philippi. Lydia, 1st convert.
 - o Cast demon/servant girl . . . jail . . . singing at midnight hour.

Phil. 1:3-6 – “³ I **thank** my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always **pray with joy** ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ **being confident** of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

- **Thankful ... joy ... confident.** **3 emotions** in remembering them.
- Partners in the Gospel. The Church is people ... each is important.
 - o All contribute. Joint effort. Not just one person... Silas/Timothy.
 - o God brings us together purposefully:
 - strengthen us – accomplish more together – coordination/gifts
- **God will complete his good work.**
 - o People start projects w/enthusiasm. Fades... incomplete.
 - o God is not like us. **He finishes what He starts.**
 - It’s a **GOOD work**. We’re in process. Becoming better.
 - And **our work is good** – the Good News of Jesus.

Phil. 1:7-8 –⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you **share** in **God’s grace** with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you w/ the affection of Christ Jesus.”

- They stood by Paul when preaching, when in prison. Not fair-weather.
- Share in God’s grace... God is giving Paul more than he deserves.
 - o He persecuted followers of Jesus, now he’s blessed by them.
 - o He sought to imprison followers, but Followers stand by him.

Phil. 1:9-11 – NLT - ⁹“I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ’s return. ¹¹May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ^{1b}—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.”

- Love that Overflows ... it **spreads** beyond us. Verb.
 - o Love is the foundation of what we do/how we live.
 - o MSG – “. . .[Pray] that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately Live a lover’s life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of”
 - Love to lift up. Love has purpose: to know God’s love.
- Grow in knowledge & understanding. Stretch yourselves. Don’t ever think we know all about God & have all the answers. (Bring Bible!)
 - o Things happen/don’t matter... caught up petty, meaningless issues

Phil. 1:12-14 – NLT – ¹²“And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. ¹³For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. ¹⁴And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God’s message without fear.”

- Hindsight gives us wisdom. We want to know why bad things happen.
- There is always a purpose for our pain. Paul in jail ... did no wrong.
 - o Sometimes God allows the bad – then uses it for good.
 - Eph, Phil, Col., & Philemon – prison epistles.
 - o Our lives touch others... our witness is @ its best in difficult times.
 - Our lives empower others.

Saying of ancient church about the relationship between God & His people: *“Deus pro nobis.”* It means *“God for us.”* **Rom. 8:31** – If God be 4 us...

- Knowing this, we can get thru our own imprisonment.
- We can be a witness for God, or we can complain ... choose.

Song of the week – Kenny Williams – “He Who Began a Good Work in You”