

Philippians 1.1-11

Partners in the Gospel

Letter // Father to Child > Loves and is Very Proud Of > Encouragement

Intro Paul's 13 Letters Direction, Purpose/ Ch 1: X 18 X's/ Gospel 6 X's

Church w/ Problems: Galatians, Corinthians / Clarify Theological Truth: Ephesians, Colossians

Philip: THANK YOU to Church brings him JOY Gospel Partnership

1. I Have You in My Mind

v. 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you

Paul n Prison n ROME > Remembers Night Jail Philippians – Singing, Earthquake,

Jailer > Suicide to Salvation! Believe on Lord Jesus SAVED & House!

Slave Girl / Python Spirit/ Set Free > Lydia: God opened Heart & Home

v. 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer w joy

Some Churches Paul served TAKERS > Philippi GIVER – REJOICED!

a. Salvation – Work that God does FOR Us

Hardened Jailer – Girl Possessed by Python Spirit – Rich Businesswoman Heard Message of Jesus – Holy Spirit opened Hearts – God Saved Them!

20 yrs Since Resurr > Jesus Building Church > into EUROPE – Beyond!

LETTER – Common Form Communication > Used advance Gospel

Standard FORM: Writer, Recipient, Greeting – Paul fills w/ Xtian Truth

AUTHOR: v. 1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus

Example: Salvation – Work that God does FOR Us > SLAVES!

Proud Pharisee HUMBLLED Happy to Serve W Timothy/Son, No Apostle

All Knew WAS – Message of Jesus > RED Letter Words of Jesus Apostle

b. Sanctification – Work that God does IN Us

To all saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, w overseers & deacons

Overseer = Bishop (Episkopos) – Deacon = Servant / Leaders TEAM

Saint NT descript Xtians – Set Apart FROM Sin / FOR Savior by H.S.

Misunderstood > Unique Vision, Event, Action – Decreed by Church

“ALL the Saints” – UNITY of Church > Proud ROMAN Citizens

TRUE Location “all saints IN Christ Jesus AT Philippi”

PASSING Thru – Philippi > PERMANENT Home IN Christ Jesus

v. 6 “I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

SURE Work of PAST: CONFIDENCE for CERTAIN Work in FUTURE

TRIUNE God Fully Committed to Our Salvation – Father, Son, Holy Spirit

WE do Good Works but GOD does BEST Work > DAY of X = Coming!

Jesus is AUTHOR & FINISHER of our Faith > Will Not Let Us Go!

c. Service – Work that God does THROUGH Us

v. 2 Grace to you & peace from God our Father & the Lord Jesus Christ

Normal Greeting in 1st C Letter “may the gods bless you”

Paul knows TRUE Blessing God OT/NT, Shalom/Salvation, Peace/Grace

Father & Son Mentioned – H.S. Implied > come to GLORIFY Jesus

v. 5 your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now

Partnership = ‘Koinonia’ Pickleball, GameNight, Sunday Lunch GREAT

1st C Pagan Associations – Trade Guild, Burial Societies, Idol Temples

Benefit Themselves, Members / OUR Fellowship is IN the GOSPEL

William Temple, Arbp Canterbury “Church of Jesus Christ is only society on earth that exists for the benefit of its non-members”

GOSPEL = Good News – Not Rules, Rituals > What GOD Done for US

2. I Have You in My Heart

Possible BE Someone’s MIND & “I have you on MY NERVES!”

v. 7 right for me to feel this way about U all, I hold you in my heart

9 X’s Letter “YOU ALL” – Paul Not Want to LEAVE Anyone OUT!

ONE Church – All Members – Partners in Gospel – Fellowship of Service

Why Important EAT Together – Drink Coffee – Game Night – Hospitality

MCC @ 17 – 9 am Opening Exercises – DONUTS & Doug Maddox

Stand Up Comedian > BUTT of Jokes Wife Mary – Something Did Wrong

v. 7 for you are all partakers with me of grace > GUILTY Need GRACE!

Praying this Week for NIGERIA > Okeke Student BJ > Elder, earned Ph.d.

Uni Prof in Nigeria > Sent My Book on Preaching – “Thanks once again for the book and all you do for the Kingdom of God. Going through it makes me appreciate the more all that you have taught me about the Word. I have shared the book with the president of the Christian students fellowship in my school...we are going through Luke...I am privileged to be the chapel secretary this time who has the responsibility to schedule the passages for our chaplains”

COSTLY PARTNERSHIP v. 7 both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Scandal in Philippi – Acts 16.20-22 They brought (Paul & Silas) them before the magistrates and said, “These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods.

Not Know Paul & Silas – Different Culture, Religion, Preaching New Ideas

BIG Trouble! Would YOU have Stood Up for Them – Walk Away, Safety!

Philippians STOOD w Paul – Imprisonment, Defense, Confirmation Gospel

More Concerned about Culture of Kohala or the Kingdom of Christ?!

“How fickle we modern Christians are by comparison: often uncommitted, and consequently unreliable in times of difficulty, failure, or crisis in the fellowship to which we belong. When difficulties arise (of whatever kind), we seek more comfortable pastures. Not so the Philippians. No wonder such a bond of love developed between Paul and these Christians” Sinclair Ferguson

Paul NOT Ashamed of Gospel > Neither were Philippians v. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

3. I Have You in My Prayers

ADMIRE Depth of Paul’s Prayers – 1000 miles apart – Rome / Philippi

May NEVER Again meet Earth – Deep in his Heart – Regularly in Prayers

Knew God HEARD Prayers and SURE had Power to Answer Them

Main Request v. 9 “my prayer that your love may abound more & more”

LOVE was 1st & 2nd Command of Jesus – Love God AND Love Neighbor

High Priest OT wore EPHOD over Heart > Jewel for Each of 12 Tribes

Deepest Fellowship in Prayer when we Intercede for Brothers & Sisters X

a. **Insight** v. 9 love more > “with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent”

Love must be COMBINED with Knowledge and Discernment

Greek “Approve” – Discerning the Will of God / Probing the Truth

Greeks > Moral Perception – Right Action for Right Situation

Knowledge both Intellectual and Experiential - DISCERNMENT

How to Obey God’s Will Generally & in Give and Take of Daily Life

Choices – Schedules – Expenses – Priorities – Time – Recreation Time

b. **Purity** v. 10 and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ

“Pure” Unmixed, Sincere / “Blameless” Without Fault or Offense

Gk “PURE” – Judgment in the LIGHT of the Sun

When Buying Suit / Sweater sometimes want to Take Outside See Color

If belong to Christ – Light Should Reveal our True, Faithful Character

Culminating Goal of Xtian Living focused on “Day of Christ”

Living in Light of Salvation that has Already Come thru Faith in X

c. **Fruitfulness** v. 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ

Proverbs 11.30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives.”

Even Mighty Apostle Paul need Others to be in Fellowship With

d. **Glory** v. 11 to the glory and praise of God.

Christian Salvation comes from His Righteousness – Not Ours

Those who Love God are to conduct our Lives for Glory & Praise of God

God in His Mercy will fulfill Salvation & Glory in the Return of Christ

Salvation is All of God and Leads to His Praise & Glory

1st Quest Westminster Shorter Catechism: “What is Chief End of Man?” Purpose, Ultimate Goal

“Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy Him for ever”

“As 21st C Christians, our hearts certainly resonate with Paul’s prayer. When we minister to others in Christ’s name, we should let them know our compassion and affection for them. We too should repeatedly turn to God in thanksgiving for them” David Chapman

Psalm 76 In Judah God is known; his name is great in Israel. // **His abode has been established in Salem, his dwelling place in Zion.** // There he broke the flashing arrows, the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. // **Glorious are you, more majestic than the mountains full of prey.** // The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil; they sank into sleep; // **all the men of war were unable to use their hands.** // At your rebuke, O God of Jacob, both rider and horse lay stunned. // **But you, you are to be feared! Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused?** // From the heavens you uttered judgment; the earth feared and was still, // **when God arose to establish judgment, to save all the humble of the earth.** // Surely the wrath of man shall praise you; the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt. // **Make your vows to the Lord your God and perform them;** // let all around him bring gifts to him who is to be feared, // **who cuts off the spirit of princes, who is to be feared by the kings of the earth. Amen and Amen.**