

## Text Outline                      **Philippians 1:1-11**

### I.     **(Greeting)**

A.     **1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,**

B.     **To all**

1.     **God's holy people**

*a)     in Christ Jesus*

*b)     at Philippi,*

2.     **together with the**

*a)     overseers*

*b)     and deacons[a]:*

C.     **2 Grace and peace to you from**

1.     **God our Father**

2.     **and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

II.    **3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy**

A.     **5 because of**

1.     **your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,**

2.     **6 being confident of this, that he**

*a)     who began a good work in you*

*b)     will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

B.     **7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you,**

1.     **since I have you in my heart**

2.     **and,**

*a)     whether I am in chains*

*b)     or defending and confirming the gospel,*

3.     **all of you share in God's grace with me.**

4.     **8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.**

III.   **9 And this is my prayer:**

A.     **that your love may abound more and more**

1.     **in knowledge**

2.     **and depth of insight,**

B.     **10 so that you**

1.     **may be able to discern what is best**

2.     **and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,**

3.     **11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ**

4.     **—to the glory and praise of God.**

## Conceptual Outline

### I. (Greeting)

- A. Paul & Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus
- B. To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi together with their leaders
- C. Grace & peace

### II. Paul's remembrance & thanksgiving for their relationship

- A. partnership in the gospel
- B. confidence in
  - 1. God who began a good work in the Philippians
  - 2. God will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus
- C. He has them in his heart
- D. They share in God's grace with Paul
  - 1. whether he's in chains
  - 2. or defending & confirming the gospel
- E. He longs for them with the affection of Christ

### III. Paul's Prayer for them

- A. Love may abound in knowledge & depth of insight
- B. so that they may be
  - 1. able to discern what's best
  - 2. pure & blameless for the day of Christ
  - 3. filled with fruit of righteousness
- C. to God's glory & praise

### Theme: Partnership in the gospel

## Questions

### 1. Introduction:

Philippi was the 1st European church Paul, Silas, & Timothy established after the Macedonian call in Acts 16. This letter was written probably 10 yr later around A.D. 60-62 when Paul was in prison at Rome under house arrest as a prisoner of Nero. The letter is an epistle of joy and encouragement in the midst of adverse circumstances. In it, Paul freely expresses his fond affection for the Philippians in view of their consistent testimony and support. He lovingly urges them to center their actions and thoughts on the person, pursuit, and power of Jesus Christ. Paul also seeks to address the problem of disunity and rivalry, urging them to imitate Christ in His humility and servant hood.

### 2. Read vs. 1-2 Look over the greeting. How it is similar or different from Ephesians & Thessalonians for example? Is there anything unusual about it? What do you think Paul is trying to emphasize from this start?

Similarities: saints, grace & peace from God the Father

Differences: in Christ Jesus at Philippi (reminds them of their dual citizenships, their mission), Servants/slaves vs. apostle (humility & service), naming overseers & deacons (addressing the entire church in unity, reminding leaders of their unity in Christ and their role as shepherds). In the greeting, he's already paving the way to address the purpose of mission and the need for unity as the partner with the apostles and one another.

### 3. Read vs. 3-8 What is your 1st impression from reading these verses about Paul's relationship with the Philippians? What is causing Paul, who is wrongfully put in prison, to have joy? What does Paul contribute to such a good relationship? What are things the Philippians do to maintain this relationship?

Paul's very fond of them. The Philippians are very loyal to Paul. His joy comes from having the Philippians' partnership in furthering the gospel even though Paul is in prison.

**Paul's contributions:** serving them with the gospel (v.1), remembering them with joy, always pray for them, having them in his heart, longing for them with the affection of Christ.

**The Philippians' contributions:** partner with Paul in the gospel, endure from the 1st day until now, regardless of circumstance they share in God's grace with Paul.

### 4. Who else has a part in this relationship? How many times was Christ & God mentioned in these 11 verses? Let's make a list of them and take a closer look to see God's part in the relationship.

God is the key in our relationship with other believers.

God's holy people (v.1), Grace & peace to you from God our Father (v.2), thank God (v.3), share in God's grace with me (v.7), God can testify (v.8), to the glory & praise of God (v.11) servants of Christ Jesus (v.1), holy people in Christ Jesus (v.1), grace & peace to you from...the Lord Jesus Christ (v.2), the day of Christ Jesus (v.6), affection of Christ (v.8), the day of Christ (v.10), through Jesus Christ (v.11)

We're God's holy people in Christ. That's what join us & bond us together. We began and are maintained through His grace which gives us peace with Him and one another. When we share with one another, we share His grace & we love with His affection for one another. Our eyes are to focus on the day of Christ. Our purpose is for His glory.

5. Paul expresses a lot of confidence in the Philippians. Where does such confidence come from? What does that say about our assurance of salvation?

His confidence is primarily in God trusting that He will complete His work. The Philippians' partnership (the good work God began, their share in God's grace) give evidence to the inner reality of their salvation in Christ.

Our salvation begins by grace through faith in Christ. It is by grace and His work that we'll walk our lives on earth. As we yield control to His Spirit, our growth in holiness will be outward evidence of our inner reality. When we see a brother or sister fall, we should not be discouraged. Instead, we should learn from Paul and pray always for them. Our confidence is in Christ.

6. From the relationship between Paul & the Philippians, what are some of the things you can do to improve your relationships with leaders, pastors, & missionaries you know? Name some things you will do to improve these relationships before the end of this year.
7. Read vs. 9-11 From his thanksgiving, Paul moves on to tell the Philippians other content of his prayer for them. What is Paul's prayer for them? What is the relationship between love, knowledge, and holiness? What would happen if any one of these is missing in our relationship with God & one another? What is the purpose of Christian growth?
- That they love may abound more & more
  - Their love will grow in knowledge & depth insight
  - They may be able to discern what's best
  - They may be pure & blameless for the day of Christ
  - They may be filled with the fruit of righteousness

Love based on a strong foundation for knowledge & insight will lead to discernment, inward purity, outward blamelessness, and righteousness. Love, knowledge, holiness are all interrelated and essentials in our relationship with God and one another. Love without knowledge is empty, a self-seeking emotional experience. Knowledge without love is prideful and deceptive. Holiness without love and knowledge is hypocrisy.

8. Think of a recent decision you made or will make, how did/would your love for God and your knowledge of Him influence you in discerning the choice to make?