

SERMON OUTLINE | Philippians 1:1-11

To All the Saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi | Matt Nelson

July 7, 2024

WRITER, ADDRESSEES, AND GREETINGS

THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH - PAUL'S DEAR GOSPEL PARTNERS

THANKSGIVING

Koinonia (vs. 3-5)

The Good and Gracious Work of God (vs. 6-8)

PRAYER

CONCLUSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

These opening verses of Philippians contain Paul's customary greeting, thanksgiving, and prayer. Yet even here he tips his hand to reveal the content of the rest of the letter by highlighting the joy of solidarity as gospel partners with the church, the need for unity in the church, and our mutual hope in the day of Christ. The main idea is Paul's example of joyful partnership in the gospel. The main takeaways are to acknowledge the past grace of God, anticipate the day of Christ, and act righteously in faith, hope, and love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What was most helpful? What was confusing?
2. What are some of the key parallels between 1st-century Philippi and our current context?
3. What does koinonia, or gospel partnership, look like in our church? Are the graces of giving and suffering present?
4. Discuss how thoughts influence feelings and actions. What truths/assumptions underlie Paul's thinking in vs. 3-8?
5. How does it change our attitude toward one another when we recognize that God is at work amongst us?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

6. In your DG, share how you came to faith.
7. If applicable/possible, thank the person or people God used to bring you to saving faith in Christ. Tell them how much it means to you.
8. Consider how you are functioning as a partner in the gospel. Are you passionate about the same things as Paul and the Philippians? Why or why not? How is it manifested practically in your life?
9. What is your prayer life like? Discuss your prayer habits together at DG this week. Help each other grow in prayer.
10. Create a schedule for prayer that can help you remember the saints regularly before the Lord.
11. Partner with your spouse or someone in your DG to pray routinely through the church directory and for our missionaries. Join for corporate prayer Wednesdays at noon.
12. Take some intentional time to consider and acknowledge how God has worked graciously in your heart, your family, our church, and beyond.
13. Begin your regular prayer times with Thanksgiving and continue until it becomes a habit.
14. How is your attitude? Keep a diary of your attitude when you encounter different kinds of challenges and suffering this week. Reflect on the thoughts and thought patterns that led to either sinful responses or faithful responses. Ask God for help.

PRAYER POINTS

15. Adoration. Praise God that he is both the Author and Finisher of our faith.
16. Confession. Confess where you have not trusted God or sought his purposes when suffering. Confess where your thinking has been based in unbelief.
17. Thanksgiving. Thank God for both the grace of giving and the grace of suffering that he has granted to you. Thank God for partners in the gospel.
18. Supplication. Pray that our church would be passionately engaged in knowing Christ and making him known.