Bible Study

Philippians: Living with Joy

Chapter 1

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

I. THE SINGLE MIND—chapter 1

A. The fellowship of the Gospel—1:1–11

B. The furtherance of the Gospel—1:12–26

C. The faith of the Gospel—1:27–30

**DISCUSSION**

The epistle (letter) to the Philippian church was written by the Apostle Paul.

Philippi is a leading city in Macedonia (modern day Greece). It was surrounded by mountains and was situated about 10 miles from the Aegean Sea.

The main overland route (Egnatian Way) between Asia and the West ran through the city.

For more background on Paul’s Second Missionary Journey to Philippi, read Acts 16.

**DISCOVERY**

The Single Mind (chapter 1)

* The Fellowship of the Gospel (1-11)
* The Furtherance of the Gospel (12-26)
* The Faith of the Gospel (27-30)

The Fellowship of the Gospel (1-11)

Paul’s Greeting (1-2)

Paul includes his protégé, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, in his greeting. (v. 1)

* Timothy is Paul’s “son in the faith” and ministry partner.
* He ministered with Paul in the Philippi region (Acts 16:1-15)

In this greeting, Paul also makes special mention of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (v.2)

* Overseers (bishops – KJV) – Greek “*episkopos*” – in charge of a church
* Deacons – Greek “*diakonos*” – attendant, waiter of tables, servant, minister

Paul gives this special mention because they are responsible for leading the church in love and obedience to Christ.

It is also Paul’s custom when writing to commend the readers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is consistent with every letter attributed to Paul’s writing (13 letters).

Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 2:2; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 3

Paul’s Gratitude (3-11)

Paul was writing this letter from prison, yet his salutation states that he joyfully remembers the Philippian believers and gives thanks to God for them. Why is this?

He is thankful for their “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the gospel from the first day until now.” (3-5)

The word “partnership” or “fellowship” in the KJV, is the Greek word “*koinonia*”.

Most commonly we understand the word to mean “fellowship”; however, it has other uses:

1. Communion; (2) communicate; (3) **contribution**; (4) distribution

\*How did they partner in the gospel with the Apostle Paul?

See ch. 4:15-16. They invested financial resources in the advancement of the gospel.

\*Do we currently partner with anyone in the gospel? Identify specific ways this is done.

Paul has great confidence that God will continue this “good” work which He started in them.

(6-7)

The “good” work being their financial partnership and support of the ministry.

Please note here that their support not only aided in the advancement of the gospel, but it also ministered to Paul during his imprisonment (remember that he was only guilty of preaching Christ).

This Philippian church was engrained in Paul’s mind. They were also deeply embedded in his heart. (8-9)

Paul’s love for this church was sincere. It could not be hidden or disguised. It was genuine.

His love for them prompted him to pray that their love would “*keep growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment…*”

Why does he pray for them in this way?

(9-11)

* “…that they will see the difference between good and bad, and choose the good…”
* “…that they will be pure and blameless for the coming of Christ…”
* “…that they will be filled with the good things produced in their lives by Christ so that God is glorified”.

What a powerful way to pray for someone!!!

We can take from these verses that Paul has this church in his mind, his heart, and his prayers.

**DIRECTION**

Read Acts 16

Read Philippians 1

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