

03 Philippians 1:3-8

Prayer, Fellowship, Love, and Longing

1. Phil 1:3-4 - Paul's Prayers

- a. The lesson begins of the principle of the believer's life purpose: to live is Christ
- b. Paul is in prison and yet he prays and is thankful - 1 Thess 5:17-18
 - i. Thanksgiving has an object, not count your blessings - Psa 100:4-5, Phil 4:6
 - ii. When man became thankless he became godless - Rom 1:21
 - iii. Good manners/politeness comes from grace doctrine - 1 Cor 15:33
 - iv. Faith without prayer is a buried faith, it will die - Eph 3:14-18, Col 2:7, 3:17
- c. "*remembrance*" - it is not only for what he has heard, but what he experienced
- d. "*every prayer*" - When is the last time you prayed
- e. "*making request with joy*" - It is not a burden when he prays for them
- f. People do what they want; they pray what they care about. Watch your heart.
 - i. Prayer keeps your heart, controls your care - Col 4:2, Phil 1:20-21, Phil 4:6-7

2. Phil 1:5 - Fellowship in the Gospel

- a. "*fellowship*" - not fun, food, friends; but rather what we have in common in Christ.
- b. Fellowship is our partnership, our unity, common union with Christ 2Co 6:14
- c. All men are to see the fellowship of the mystery - Eph 3:9, which is Eph 3:6, 1Co 1:9
- d. Their fellowship was the gospel (1:5), Spirit (2:1), sufferings (3:10), ministry (4:15)
- e. It is possible to be close to people physically, but miles away spiritually.
- f. "*first day until now*" - The first day is when they heard the gospel (Acts 16)
 - i. See also Acts 20:18, 1 Cor 15:3, Gal 4:13
 - ii. They were faithful, which is the best thing to be said - 2 Tim 2:2, 1 Cor 4:1

3. Phil 1:6-8 - Paul's Heart and Longing

- a. "*this very thing*" - re: their faithfulness a result of God's faithfulness - 2 Ti 2:11-13
- b. "*will perform it*" - "*according to his working*" - Col 1:29; God can keep it - 2 Tim 1:12-14
 - i. He has the same prayer for the faithful Thessalonians - 1 Thess 5:23-24
 - ii. God will perform the work if we get out of the way.
- c. "*it is meet for me to think this*" - why? Paul has proof. He remembers their care.
 - i. Paul's love toward them was a response to their partaking in his grace.
 - ii. The grace God gave to Paul - Rom 15:16, Eph 3:6-7, 2 Tim 1:8-9
- d. "*defence*" - this is what is given when you are accused or attacked - Acts 19:33, 22
- e. "*confirmation*" - The establishment of the gospel - Acts 14:22, 15:32, 15:41
 - i. They assisted in his establishment - Rom 1:11, 16:25; Col 2:5-7, Phil 4:15-16
 - ii. Paul can tell the condition of their hearts, by their care for him - 2 Co 9:7
- f. "*long after you all in the bowels*" - The life Paul lives is Christ - Gal 2:20
 - i. He is not desirous of them in a carnal way, but as Christ would Phil 4:17-19