

Philippians, Chapter 1, verse 1-19

BEING PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

The church in Philippi was born and lived in a hostile environment

- ❖ Philippi was proud to be a Roman colony. See Acts 16:20-21
- ❖ A riot, false accusations, beaten, denial of rights, prison. See Acts 16
- ❖ Paul and Silas were asked to leave the city. See Acts 16:38-40
- ❖ Christians living in a hostile situation need to stand together.

The Philippians were united in Gospel security (v6)

- ❖ God had begun a good work in them. (v6)
- ❖ Their lives had been transformed. See Acts 16 Lydia, slave girl, jailer
- ❖ God was continuing his work in them. See 2:12-13
- ❖ They rejoiced in an eschatological hope *“the day of Christ Jesus.”*

They knew an affection for each other in the Gospel (v7)

- ❖ They all shared in the experience of God’s grace (v7)
- ❖ They knew a heart relationship with Paul and each other (v7).
- ❖ Their love for one another was Christ-like. (v8)
- ❖ Deep Christian relationships are the essential basis for any church.

They needed to abound in love more and more (vv9-11)

- ❖ Paul prayed for their spiritual growth and progress. (vv9-11)

- ❖ Love is the “growing tip” of the Christian life.
- ❖ We need to know God’s love for us in order to show love to others.
- ❖ Divisions/ disunity amongst Christians arise from spiritual insecurity.

They engaged in Gospel partnership for world mission (v5)

- ❖ This had been true of them from “the first day”. (v5)
- ❖ They sent Epaphroditus to encourage Paul in prison. See 2:25-30
- ❖ They sent gifts to Paul again and again. See 4:15-16
- ❖ They had a big heart and vision for Gospel proclamation.

They rejoiced in Gospel joy and hope and proclamation (vv12-26)

- ❖ Paul, even in prison, was a great example to them. (vv12-18a)
- ❖ The proclamation of Jesus Christ was the great priority. (v18)
- ❖ They prayed in hope for Paul and the work of the Holy Spirit. (v19)
- ❖ The Gospel always gives us reason for joy and hope.