

Theme: As Paul remembers the Philippians, he is filled with thanksgiving and joy because of their close partnership with him in the Gospel, and confidence because of God's sustaining grace.

I. Intro – Close Old Friends

- A. Brad and Cindy Taylor last year
- B. Like we had never been apart
- C. Something wonderful about old friends
- D. Especially if we share Christ together
- E. Paul and the Philippians are like this

II. Thanksgiving, Joy, & Confidence in Prayer (v3-6)

- A. Thanksgiving in prayer (v3)
 - 1. Paul thanks God for the Philippians (v3)
 - 2. Every time remembers them in prayer (v3-4)
- B. Joy in prayer (v4)
 - 1. Paul prays with joy (v4)
 - 2. Joy because they partner with him (v5)
 - 3. Prayer is joyful, especially for people like this!
 - 4. A key issue in this letter (14 times)
- C. Confidence in prayer (v6)

- 1. Paul prays with confidence (v6)
- 2. Confident God started and will complete work
- 3. Confidence is in God – not them!

D. Paul is living 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18!

III. Paul's Relationship With the Philippians (v7-8)

- A. Paul's feelings for the Philippians (v7-8)
 - 1. Paul's feelings/thoughts (v3-6) are right (v7)
 - 2. They are in Paul's heart (v7)
 - 3. v8 – God witness; Paul longs; Christ's affection
- B. The basis: their partnership (v7-8)
 - 1. Share in God's grace (v7)
 - 2. Partners in the Gospel (v5)
 - 3. Partners two ways:
 - a. Share in God's grace and Gospel as believers
 - b. Helping (money 4:15-16; v7 – chains; etc.)
- C. The concern: unity!
 - 1. Note "all of you" – 4 times! (v4,7,7,8)
 - 2. The 4 uses

- a. Pray for all of you (v4)
 - b. Rejoice & confidence in God's work in all (v7)
 - c. All are partners (v7)
 - d. He loves them all (v8)
3. Disunity is brewing – and Paul wants unity!
- a. Another key theme in the letter
 - b. Think how disunity will stop partnership!

IV. Applying the Word

- A. Am I a thankful, joyful person?
- 1. Am I thankful & joyful, or do I complain?
 - 2. Thankful/joyful in all circumstances – or only in good?
 - 3. Do I actually say thank you to God – or assume?
- B. Am I a partner in Gospel ministry?
- 1. Do you believe the Gospel?
 - 2. Missions – radical goer, radical sender, etc.
 - 3. In local church – affection of Christ for others?
 - 4. Am I walking in unity – or disunity?
- C. Am I confident in God?

- 1. Confident in God for my salvation?
 - 2. Confident in God for circumstances? (thanks)
 - 3. Confident in God for others? (unity)
 - 4. Confident in God to do great things? (prayer, ministry)
- D. Communion: confident participation in Christ

Partners in Gospel Ministry

Philippians 1:3-8
 December 16, 2007
 Communion
 Romans 15:13

16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need.

Philippians 4:15-16