

Is It In You?
Connect
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Philippians 1:1-11
S-1773

This morning we begin an 8 week study in the 4 chapter letter that Paul wrote from prison to his friends in Philippi.

Our memory verse for this week is Philippians 1:9: *“So, this is my prayer that your love may flourish and that you will not only love much but you will love well.”*

THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH

The battle of Philippi—Octavius vs. Brutus and Cassius—after the battle is long forgotten the world will remember that the first move of the gospel into Europe was in Philippi.

The vision (Acts 16:7-10) of the Macedonian man
The church born out of ladies’ prayer meeting (Acts 16:11-15)
The exorcism of the woman with the “Python Spirit” (Acts 16:18)
The persecution (Acts 16:22-24)
The revival at midnight (Acts 16:25-40)

The charter members of church at Philippi

1. Lydia, her family and girl friends
2. The demon possessed woman
3. The Philippian jailer and his family

Paul was in prison in Rome when he wrote Philippians. Why did he write the letter?

1. The Philippian church sent him a love gift and this letter is a thank you note.
2. Some accused Epaphroditus of being lazy (Philippians 2:29-30). Paul wanted them to know that their emissary was not lazy but deathly ill.
3. He was encouraging them to be content with an attitude of joy during their intense persecution (Philippians 1:28-30).
4. He appealed for unity among the women who were fighting (Philippians 4:2).

SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM THE TEXT (Philippians 1:1-11)

A saint is one who is in Christ Jesus. These saints happened to live in Philippi—they could have lived anyplace and still be in Christ.

Thinking of the Philippians brought Paul happy memories. Relationships are lovely when remembrance and gratitude go together. How nice it is when our relationships have happy memories

The top priority for a church is sharing the gospel. An assembly of saints working together to bring the gospel to the unsaved is likely to experience much more real fellowship than saints primarily occupied with themselves.

In verse 6 “began a good work” and “carry it on to completion” are technical terms for the beginning and ending of a sacrifice. Paul is thinking of them in terms of their personal

sacrifices for Christ (See Romans 12:1-2.). We act most like Jesus when we place ourselves on the altar. Paul had no doubt about their final outcome. God would perfect what he had begun in them. God looks at people not so much as what they are but as what they can become.

Paul held these Philippians in his heart (“I have you in my heart.”). What a wonderful place to hold people!

“Affection” is the Greek word *splagehnon*, often translated as “Bowels”. It refers to the deepest feelings of emotions. Paul was saying, “I love you with the most tender feelings imaginable.

Paul’s prayer for them (Philippians 1:9-11) is fourfold:

1. That our love may flourish;
2. That we may approve excellent things;
3. That we may be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ;
4. That we may be filled with the fruit of righteousness.

Let’s focus on “abounding love”.

The lyric poem describing love in 1 Corinthians 13 emphasizes love in terms of verbs. Love does something.

The three Greek words for love used in the Bible are:

Agape: Love like God’s

Phelos: Love for friends

Eros: love for the physical

Love always costs; but, the beauty of love is to love and be loved in return. Even more lovely is to love when love is not returned.

Paul prayed for their maturity in love because love doesn’t come all at once. We must grow up in our loving.

THE TAKEAWAYS

● **Our top priority is to get lost people saved.**

● **Connection to others is essential.**

(It is impossible to know everyone in our church—but it is essential that we know somebody.)

● **Our love is to flourish and overflow.**

(Remember to refer to PreachitTeachit.org this week to access past and present sermons, multiple helps for your devotional life and for Christian answers and insights to relevant issues of today.)