

OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

1. Text: Philippians 1:3-7
2. Here is an expository sermon on chapter one of Philippians. This is not seeing every point or verse (As in a Bible class) but selecting key concepts centered in a common theme.
3. Common Theme: Verse 5 and your fellowship in the gospel. They shared or participated in as partners with Paul the wonderful good news. We share the same. When then follows?

I. **Appreciation (Verses 1-6)**

1. So common in Paul's letters. Least item, he praises.
2. Verse three: I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.
3. Prays for them with joy (verse 4)
4. Many call this a "thank you" note.
5. Easy to apply: say and show

II. **Affection (Verses 7-11)**

1. He goes beyond praise. Paul loved them.
2. Verse 7: "I have you in my heart."
3. Verse 8: God is my witness, how greatly I long for you with the affection of Jesus Christ.
4. I Peter 1:22 speaks of the unfeigned (sincere) love of the brethren and loving one another fervently with a pure heart.
5. Paul and the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:36-38)
6. Loving relations usually established by working together.

III. **Advance (Verses 12-18)**

1. Book written while Paul was chained for two years in Rome (Acts 28:20, 30) Did this stop the cause of Christ?
2. Praetorian guard (verse 13): elite Roman guard of 10,000 stationed in Rome. Imagine them chained to him and hearing the gospel!
3. While he was imprisoned two groups were evangelizing: one out of goodwill and love to support him, the other out of envy, strife, selfish ambition, and desire to cause Paul pain.
4. His response: Keep your priorities clear. Christ was being preached by both groups; that was the important thing.
5. We should watch our motives and priorities and drive forward.

IV. **Assistance (Verses 19-26)**

1. Famous passage and point: to stay on "is more needful for you."
2. His desire was to "depart and be with the Lord," but his readers needed him still. That's how much they meant to him.
3. Why do we want to live on here? Is it primarily to serve, help, benefit others?

V. **Action (Verses 27-30)**

1. Verse 27: Let your conduct be worthy, suitable, fitting of the gospel.
2. Whether Paul was with them or not, they would act appropriately.
3. Note in verse 27 the special plea for united action.
4. It has been "granted" to you to suffer for His sake. (verse 29)

Conclusion:

A Sermon preached by Monte Ginnings
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