

0190 057      The Greatest Partnership In Life.  
08/14/97      Phi 1:7; 1Co 12:25-26; Col 1:28-29; 1Jo 3:16

## Summary

The discussion focused on Philippians 1:7, emphasizing the unique relationship between Paul and the Philippian church. Key points included Paul's admiration for the church, their financial support, and their shared sufferings. McLaughlin highlighted 11 principles: the Philippian church was Paul's only partner in grace, they supported him in his dark moments, and they shared in his sufferings and labors. McLaughlin stressed the importance of true friendship, mutual respect, and the pastor's role in leading the congregation to spiritual maturity. The session concluded with a prayer and a preview of future studies on Philippians.

- **Opening Prayer and Importance of Silent Prayer [0:21](#)**
  - McLaughlin emphasizes the importance of silent prayer before the service to prepare oneself to receive the Word of God.
  - McLaughlin explains that confessing sins is necessary for God to forgive and cleanse from unrighteousness.
  - A prayer is offered, asking for God's blessing on the study of His word and for the sanctification of the time spent together.
  - McLaughlin stresses the significance of understanding the original language of the Bible to get the correct translation.
- **Exegesis of Philippians 1:7 [2:43](#)**
  - McLaughlin begins the study of Philippians 1:7, explaining the context of the apostle Paul addressing the Philippian church.
  - McLaughlin highlights Paul's admiration and special place in his heart for the Philippian church.
  - The phrase "partners in grace" is discussed, noting that Paul used this term uniquely for the Philippian church.
  - McLaughlin introduces 11 principles related to verse 7, emphasizing the respect and support the Philippian church showed Paul.
- **Principles of Partnership and Suffering [5:36](#)**
  - McLaughlin explains that the Philippian church supported Paul financially and shared in his sufferings and labors.
  - McLaughlin discusses the principle that every congregation will go through similar sufferings as their pastor.
  - The concept of undeserved sufferings is introduced, referencing verses 28 through 30 in Philippians.
  - McLaughlin emphasizes that true friendship is based on shared sufferings and mutual support.
- **True Friendship and Adversity [8:23](#)**
  - McLaughlin discusses the importance of true friends who support each other in both prosperity and adversity.

- McLaughlin notes that true friends are rare and valuable, especially in times of adversity.
- The principle that prosperity makes friends but adversity tries them is highlighted.
- McLaughlin emphasizes that true friends are those who stick up for and defend each other.
- **Companionship of Absent Friends [19:55](#)**
  - McLaughlin talks about the concept of the companionship of absent friends, using Paul's assurance of the Philippian church's support.
  - McLaughlin shares personal experiences of having friends who are always there to support and encourage.
  - The importance of cultivating true friendships based on shared values and mutual support is emphasized.
  - McLaughlin references Proverbs 17:17 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 to illustrate the benefits of true friendship.
- **The Mind of Christ and Spiritual Maturity [20:12](#)**
  - McLaughlin discusses the mind of Christ, which motivates believers to support and help each other.
  - McLaughlin emphasizes that true friends are those who are there for each other in times of need.
  - The principle that a true friend is known in adversity is reiterated.
  - McLaughlin highlights the importance of having the mind of Christ in dealing with believers who are negative toward doctrine.
- **The Role of the Pastor and Congregation [27:53](#)**
  - McLaughlin explains that the pastor's goal is to lead the congregation to spiritual maturity.
  - McLaughlin emphasizes that the pastor's job is to teach doctrine and present believers as spiritually mature.
  - The principle that the pastor will be judged based on the response of the congregation to his teaching is discussed.
  - McLaughlin highlights the importance of mutual respect between the pastor and the congregation.
- **Partnership in Ministry [48:13](#)**
  - McLaughlin discusses the principle that the pastor and congregation are dependent on each other for prosperity and blessing.
  - McLaughlin emphasizes that mutual respect and cooperation are essential for the success of the ministry.
  - The principle that the congregation should support the pastor financially and in prayer is highlighted.
  - McLaughlin notes that the congregation can support the ministry even if they are geographically separated.
- **Identifying with Persecutions [51:25](#)**
  - McLaughlin discusses the principle that the congregation should identify with and support their pastor in times of persecution.
  - McLaughlin emphasizes that true friends are those who treat the pastor's persecutions as their own.

- The principle that the pastor should not be ashamed of his congregation is discussed.
  - McLaughlin highlights the importance of having the mind of Christ in dealing with persecutions.
- **Conclusion and Future Study [54:14](#)**
  - McLaughlin concludes the study by emphasizing the importance of the principles discussed.
  - McLaughlin notes that the study of Philippians 1:8 will continue in the next session.
  - McLaughlin prays for the enlightenment and growth of the congregation in their understanding of the Word of God.
  - The session ends with a prayer for continued growth in grace and knowledge.