

# L2 | Fellowship in the Gospel | Php. 1:1-11

## I. Intro/Review:

### 1. The City of Philippi

### 2. The Church at Philippi (Acts 16)

1. Beginnings
2. And It Came to Pass
3. The Church

### 3. Paul, the Prisoner (Acts 28)

- Rome
- Hired house
- Receiving many

### 4. The Epistle to the Philippians (Themes, Misc)

- No OT references
- **Purpose**
  1. Purpose of Paul Writing the Epistle
    1. Communicate gratitude for the gift they gave him, sent with Epaphroditus - Php. 4:10-20
    2. Send Epaphroditus to them - Php. 2:25-26
    3. Share about his circumstances - Php. 1:12-26
      - Encourage and comfort them in patient endurance together
    4. Exhort them to unity in Christ - Php. 2:1-2, 4:2
    5. Warn them of false teachers - Php. 3:1-4:1
- **Themes**
  1. Brotherly love abound - to unity, fellowship till the day of Christ
  2. Salvation and supply in suffering
  3. Christ's no reputation and exaltation as the excellency of the believers esteem of each other
  4. Warnings of pretence
    - 1) From those that preach Christ
    - 2) From those that don't - dogs, evil workers, concision
  5. Joy & Contentment

## II. Preview:

### 1. Intimacy with the Philippian Church - Fellowship in the Gospel

- Bishops and Deacons
- Thankfulness
- Fellowship in the Gospel
- Meet Confidence
- Paul's Joy and Longing
- Exhortation

### 2. Bishops and Deacons

### 3. Thankfulness

### 4. Fellowship in the Gospel

5. Meet Confidence
6. Paul's Joy and Longing
7. Prayer Request - Exhortation

### III. Sermon:

**Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.  
{Philippians 1:1-2}**

- Paul and Timotheus
  1. Timothy with Paul when he first goes to Philippi - Acts 16:1-8ff
  2. Timothy stays in Macedonia - Acts 17:14-15, 18:5
  3. Timothy goes back to Macedonia - Acts 19:22, 20:1-6
- Mentions
  - Rom\_16:21 Timotheus my **workfellow**, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.
  - 1Co\_4:17 For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, **who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord**, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach every where in every church.
  - 1Co\_16:10 Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also do.
  - 2Co\_1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:
  - 2Co\_1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea.
  - Php\_1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
  - Php\_2:19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus **shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.**
  - Col\_1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus **our brother,**
  - 1Th\_1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - 1Th\_3:2 And sent Timotheus, **our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:**
  - 1Th\_3:6 But now when Timotheus came from you unto us, and brought us good

tidings of your faith and charity, and that ye have good remembrance of us always, desiring greatly to see us, as we also to see you:

- 2Th\_1:1 Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
- 1Ti\_1:2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1Ti\_1:18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;
- 1Ti\_6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:
- 1Ti\_6:21 Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen. The first to Timothy was written from Laodicea, which is the chiefest city of Phrygia Pacatiana.
- 2Ti\_1:2 To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Phm\_1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,
- Heb\_13:23 Know ye that our brother Timothy is set at liberty; with whom, if he come shortly, I will see you.

## 2. Bishops and deacons

- All the saints and bishops and deacons
  - 1 Tim. 3:1ff
  - Tit. 1
- Paul's intimacy - with the leadership established at Philippi
  - Contrast to the Corinthians - 1 Cor. 6:4

**I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,  
{Philippians 1:3-4}**

## 3. Thankfulness

- **"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you"**
  - The measure and reasons - always, in every prayer of mine, making request with joy, for fellowship in the gospel, confidence because I have you in my heart, in my bonds and in defense and confirmation of the gospel, partakers of my grace
- Contrast to the Corinthians
  - 1 Cor. 1:4
  - 1 Cor. 11:17, 22

- **"always in every prayer of mine"**
  - The description of upon every remembrance
  - Paul is remembering the Philippians in every prayer of his
- **"making request with joy,"**
  - Making requests, petitions - we can assume from later in the text
  - The emphasis is Paul is filled with gratitude and joy in praying for the Philippians - v9

**For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;  
{Philippians 1:5}**

#### 4. Fellowship in the Gospel

- **"for your fellowship in the gospel"**
  - The reason for Paul's thankfulness
  - The reason for Paul praying with joy
  - What consists of "fellowship in the gospel"?
- **"from the first day until now;"**
  - Continuance, endurance, steadfastness, perseverance
  - 10 years from the first day

**Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will  
perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:  
{Philippians 1:6}**

#### 5. Meet Confidence

- **"Being confident of this very thing"**
  - Confidence - trusting, relying, full assurance
  - What is "this very thing"?
- **"that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it unto the day of Jesus Christ"**
  - Paul has an unwavering confidence in the "much assurance" of the gospel that people are saved; however, there isn't always that same confidence concerning that which comes after what has been "begun".
  - There are indicators that Paul gives concerning that comes after what has "begun" of Paul's confidence - in the Lord based upon the maturity and growth of the believer.
  - Not a salvation issue, but a "fellowship in the gospel" issue
  - This is "a good work" of "perfection" - Php. 3
- Paul is confident the Lord will perform (perfect, or finish) the good work begun unto the day of Jesus Christ.

- Why is Paul confident?

**Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.**

**{Philippians 1:7}**

- **"even as it is meet for me to think this of you all"** - fitting, suitable to have confidence in the Lord's work in them.
- Fellowship in the Gospel & Meet
  - **"because I have you in my heart;"**
    - **"inasmuch as both"**
      1. **"in my bonds"**
      2. **"and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel"**
  - **"ye all are partakers of my grace."**
    - As Paul is in prison the Philippians haven't abandoned him
    - They continue in their fellowship in the gospel
    - They are knit in heart concerning the gospel in relationship to his bonds and continued proclamation of the gospel
    - Thus the Philippians are partakers with Paul "of his grace"
    - To proclaim the gospel even in the face of persecution
- Hence Paul thanks God for them with joy!

**For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.**

**{Philippians 1:8}**

## 6. Paul's Joy and Longing

- **"For God is my record,"** - not much else to appeal to
- **"how greatly I long after you all"**
  - The apostle Paul loved the Philippians, He knew the purpose of God in Christ for the church at large and he partook of that with the Philippians
  - **"in the bowels of Jesus Christ."**
    - 2 Cor. 7:15 - "inward affection"
    - Php. 2:1 - "bowels and mercies" (tender mercy - Luke 1:78)
    - Phm 1:7, 12, 20
    - 1 John. 3:17
    - Contrast to Eph. 4:17ff - "who being past feeling"
    - Touch with our infirmities - took on our flesh, made in the likeness of sinful flesh
    - This is what Christ is desirous of - pleases Him
    - The affection of Jesus Christ

**And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all**

**judgment;  
{Philippians 1:9}**

**7. Prayer Request - Exhortation**

- **"And this I pray"** - v4
- **"that your love may abound yet more and more"**
  - **"in knowledge and"** - full knowledge
    - Comes from the word of truth
  - **"in all judgment;"** - discernment
    - The exercise of that knowledge in life
    - The act of discerning; also, the power or faculty of the mind, by which it distinguishes one thing from another, as truth from falsehood, virtue from vice; acuteness of judgment; power of perceiving differences of things or ideas, and their relations and tendencies.

**That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence  
till the day of Christ;  
{Philippians 1:10}**

**Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and  
praise of God.  
{Philippians 1:11}**

**IV. Conclusion:**