

# Philippians 1:1-11 – 23 October 2022

## “Awesome Affection, Complete Connection”

### Introduction

\*1 of 4 Prison letters written late in Paul’s life circa 61AD (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon)

\*Paul & the Philippians had a very mature level of Christian experience with each other

\*This letter isn’t seated in the heavenlies like Ephesians, but is very practically loving

\*Apart from Philemon, it’s the most personal letter

\*He had no real doctrinal issues to correct here, as he did with the Galatians

\*He had no real conduct issues to correct here, as he did with the Corinthians

\*Simply had great love, trust & joy w/ each other

**\*Today, we’ll see 3 levels of their connection**

It’s great example of what we should strive for in relationships with our fellow believers

# **1<sup>st</sup> Level of their connection: It all started w/ just a few bodies (Intro and Vs 1-2)**

## Intro

1. This was Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> European Church he founded
  - a. Founded in 51AD on 2<sup>nd</sup> M. Trip (Act 16)
2. Paul was waiting on God for direction & got a vision of a man from Macedonia asking for help
3. No synagogue: Jews met at river
  - a. Lydia was there holding a prayer meeting
  - b. This prayer meeting, no doubt, was a large reason Paul received the vision from the Lord to come there & spread the Gospel for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Europe!
4. Lydia & Philippian jailor among the 1<sup>st</sup> saved
  - a. Lydia was a faithful worshipping Jew and she got saved
  - b. Met jailor when put in jail b/c they cast out demon that costed some Philippians money

5. We'll read in Phil 3 - Epaphroditus risked his life bringing support money to Paul in Roman prison
  - a. Upon his recovery Epaphroditus was sent back to Philippi with this Thank You Letter

## Read Vs 1

1. In such a personal letter, Paul has no need to take the robust title of Apostle, but to friends he is just...servant
2. Sent from Paul & Timothy whom he called his beloved & faithful son – discipleship/mentoring
3. 'Saints in Christ Jesus' is one expression
  - a. Read I Cor 1:2
  - b. We're holy b/c we're in Christ
4. Offices were there and functioning
  - a. Elders is the common word for the spiritual leaders of the church
  - b. Pastor is a role of some of the Elders that have the means to shepherd the sheep
  - c. Bishop is a generalized term for Elders & Pastors as the overseers

- d. Deacon is the word for the material leaders of the church

Read Vs 2

1. Combining Greek *grace* with the Jewish *peace*
2. From God & Jesus...equally
3. I pray you get more than you deserve & you live in a state of peace with God & His Church

**2<sup>nd</sup> Level in their connection: Growing mentally strong together (Vs 3-8)**

Intro

1. This is Paul's prayer of thanksgiving for them

Read Vs 3-5

1. It brings him great joy to think of them
2. He thanks God for the deep friendship that he's always had with them
  - a. Notice their deep friendship was surrounding spiritual matters, not trivial things
  - b. This fellowship *koinonia* was a sharing of all things, especial money

## Read Vs 6

1. Read Eph 2:10
  - a. Paul's great hope is that spiritual growth w/i them will continue until day we see Jesus
  - b. 'perform' is *epiteleo* – 'a full end'
  - c. You've heard, 'God's still workin' on me', well there's a day coming in which you'll be complete!
2. There is a set day that Jesus will judge the living and the dead (Read Act 10:42)
  - a. Everyday is a day to get closer to being a "good & faithful servant"

## Read Vs 7

1. He's thanking them that they've all been co-participants in this gospel work that has brought him before man's judgement seat

## Read Vs 8

1. Paul desires, with the tender mercies of Jesus, to be with them
2. This is the heart & soul of Paul's work: people

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Level in their connection: Continues Spiritually for eternity (Vs 9-11)**

### Intro

1. This is Paul's prayer of petition for them

### Read Vs 9

1. He prays that their love grows in knowledge & discernment
2. Why do we need growth in this area?
  - a. Toward Unbelievers
    - i. There's a danger in throwing around tender compassion without standing on the truth & righteousness
    - ii. This inoculated them to the truth thinking they have it
  - b. Toward Believers
    - i. We have an example within marriage as Peter tells husbands to "dwell w/ their wives according to knowledge" (I Pet 3:7)
    - ii. A.W. Tozier: Never stop pursuing God!

## Read Vs 10

1. ‘Approve things that are excellent’ – that you may know how to differentiate things
  - a. Read I Thes 5:21
  - b. Don’t aim for things that are barely good
2. Why? So that you may be pure and not dirtied with the sin of this world

## Read Vs 11

1. ‘Being filled with the fruits of righteousness’
  - a. There are benefits for us from living in purity & goodness
2. It brings honor to God when we live a pure life
  - a. Read Matt 5:16 – See our works & glorify God
  - b. Read John 15:8 – This is how we glorify God

## Conclusion

So, there should be a whole-being connectedness between us and other Christians.

1. **It starts off by talking to somebody**
  - a. As we share Jesus with people, there's lots of rejection, but you may just start a life-long friendship
2. **Then continue to grow mentally stronger**
  - a. Get into the Word
  - b. Grow in joy, hope and work together!
3. **We continue spiritually for eternity**
  - a. Are you praying for our friends to have wisdom and purity
  - b. Are we asking the Lord to bless & help them?

Finally Read I Thes 5:23-24

Trust God to do the work in you as you lean on Him in worship & thankfulness