

A Deeper Love

During October we have focused on *Life After Healing*. We've talked about how the new reality the Spirit has and is creating for us. Now we operate from a spiritual perspective. Perspective leads to proclamation. Proclamation leads to praise ... in the joy with which we're being supplied, we naturally move with praise and bring glory to our great God and Savior. Thus far we have examined Philippians 1.3-6 and discovered that Paul's life was one of Spirit-produced joy. Today we will examine 1.7-8 and focus on the joy Paul found in his affection for the Philippian Church.

I. 1.7: A Look Inside Paul's Heart

- A. 1.7a - *it is **right** for me to think this way about all of you...*
 - 1. He looked back on how much they had done for him. It touched him deeply.
- B. 1.7b - *because I have you in my **heart**...* Why did Paul place them in his heart?
- C. 1.7c - *you are all partners with me in grace, ...in my **imprisonment**...*
 - 1. Sending money and... Epaphroditus to him ... instructing him to stay with Paul.
 - 2. Philippians 2.30 - *he came close to **death** for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up what was lacking in your ministry to me.*
- D. 1.7d - *you are all **partners** with me in grace ... in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.*

II. 1.8 - A Supernatural Love

- A. 1.8a - He calls on God to attest to the truthfulness of his attitude.
 - 1. He is tied to them with all his heart.
 - 2. 4.1 - *dearly loved and longed for brothers and sisters ... my joy and crown.... **dear** friends.*
- B. 1.8b - he loved them *with the affection of Christ...*
 - 1. It is a love given by Christ to those who are His.
 - 2. Romans 5.5: *This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been **poured out** in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*
 - 3. Galatians 5.22: it is the **fruit** of the Spirit.
- C. 1.8c - **affection**
 - 1. "from the bowels." Very expressive. Everything within him longed for them.

III. As We Close...

- A. Affection for everyone in the family. We need to be as inclusive as possible.
- B. Affection for those who cause problems.
 - 1. 2 Corinthians 7.3: *I don't say this to condemn you, since I have already said that **you are in our hearts, to die together and to live together.***
 - 2. How do we see our brothers & sisters?
- C. Fellowship brings joy.
 - 1. Am I actually weaving my life together with my brothers and sisters?
 - 2. Do I have a meaningful connection with God's people at Cornerstone?