

Sermon Series: "One in mind, love, spirit and purpose"

Sermon Summary and Bible Study

Rejoice in Harmony

Philippians Chapter 1 verses 1 to 11



Background to the letter:

Around AD 51 the Apostle Paul travelled with Silas, Luke and Timothy to Philippi on his 2nd missionary journey. Philippi was a Roman Colony. Popular for retired Roman soldiers and their families. On arrival, they looked for a place of prayer and shared the gospel. A few people were saved. A small church began. Read the story in Acts Chapter 16.

Eleven years later Paul writes this letter to the church in Philippi. Over those eleven years the Philippian Christians, though a small church, had grown and been very generous and regular in supporting Paul and his companions (2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Philippians 4:10-20). When the church found out that Paul was in Rome under house arrest waiting trial (Acts 28:11-31) they were concerned and sent one of their members, Epaphroditus, with a message of encouragement, news of the church and a further financial gift to support him and his ministry in Rome (Philippians 4:10-20). This letter is Paul's response. A letter of appreciation for their partnership in the gospel and guidance for Christian living in the face of hardship.

There is wisdom and value for living life God's way in this letter of Paul to the church in Philippi. Wisdom and value for life for both you the Christian and those curious as to what it means to live life God's way. May we find it and apply it.

A Bible Study

Pray to begin with - *Almighty God and loving heavenly Father, guide me and teach me of yourself from your Word. Help me to see the wisdom and value to my life of living it according to what I read and learn in it. Amen.*

Read Sermon Summary – for background and context for the letter (See over)

Questions:

1. What do you appreciate about your local church? The people?
2. What do you appreciate about belonging to the world wide family of God called the "Church"?
3. Do you feel like you belong, have a part to play in its purpose and mission? Why or why not? If not, what do you need to make you believe you do?

Read Philippians Chapter 1 verses 1 to 11

1. The Apostle Paul appreciated his "partnership in the gospel" he had with the church in Philippi. He felt very much in harmony with them in purpose and mission. What does that word "partnership" mean to you? What does it mean for you to be in "partnership in the gospel"?
2. How did Paul show his appreciation? Why?
3. Paul sees their partnership as a "good work" of God in them (vs 6), "God's grace" (vs 7) and an act of "love" (vs 9) that he wanted them to continue. How did he pray for them accordingly? What specific things may he have had in mind that God would grant them the "grace", enabling to do so?
4. In verses 9 to 11 Paul wanted the church to believe that their partnership with him in the gospel was a sign of their Christian maturity. Also, that it was the right thing for them to be doing. So he prays that they might know the best way to continue to do so and that they should feel no guilt if they thought they had not done enough or that their motives were perceived as not pure. Finally, he reminds them that their partnership is a work of God in them to the glory of God. Close your Bible Study time by praying accordingly for your local church and the wider Church of God.

A Prayer to end - *Thank you God for guiding and teaching me of yourself from your Word. There is wisdom and value for my life in living it according to what I have read and learnt. Amen.*

Read ahead for next week's Bible Teaching:

Philippians Chapter 1 verses 12 to 26.