

INTRODUCTION

- * Last week we considered the beginning of the church of Philippi and Paul's letter to them. We mentioned that this letter was written approximately only 12 years after Paul's initial visit there.
- * We also briefly mentioned last week the theme that runs through this letter - the call to continue in the oneness (κοινωνία - koinonia) that they have in Christ Jesus.
- * Today, we begin considering this letter of encouragement and exhortation more fully by considering Paul's opening declaration of his blessing, thanksgiving and supplication for these dear believers.

INSTRUCTION

I. HIS BLESSING (v. 2)

A. In C_____ to The Standard Greeting (cf. Acts 15:23; 23:25-26; James 1:1; ... Luke 1:26-28; Matthew 26:48-49)

B. In C_____ of Apostolic Desire

1. THE USAGES

- * Paul: cf. Rom 1:7; 1Co 1:3; 2Co 1:2; Gal 1:3; Eph 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Col 1:2; 1Th 1:1; 2Th 1:2; 1Tim 1:2; 2 Tim 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 1:3
- * Peter - cf. 1Pt 1:2; 2Pt 1:2

2. THE UNDERSTANDING

a. Grace

b. Peace

II. HIS THANKSGIVING (v. 3-8)

A. The F_____ (v. 3-4)

B. The A_____ (v. 4)

C. The M_____

1. THE F_____ OF THE GOSPEL (v. 5; cf. 4:14-17)

2. THE F_____ OF GOD (v. 6)

D. The I_____ (cf. 2:1)

1. BECAUSE OF THE R_____ OF THIS DESIRE (v. 7)

2. BECAUSE OF THE P_____ OF THE PHILIPPIANS (v. 8; 2:25-30)

III. HIS SUPPLICATION (v. 9-11)

A. The P_____ (v. 9)

1. THAT YOUR LOVE MAY BE E_____

2. THAT YOUR LOVE MAY BE D_____

a. With Knowledge

b. With Discernment

B. The P_____ (v. 10)

1. INTO YOUR TESTING OF THE "THROUGH-BEARING THINGS"

2. IN ORDER THAT YOU MAY BE SINCERE AND NON-STUMBLING INTO THE DAY OF CHRIST

C. The P_____ (v. 11; cf. John 15:1-8)

INTROSPECTION

- * What does your prayer life look like?

How often do you thank God for those who have sown the gospel into your life?

- * Are you a "Partaker" with those who are sharing the gospel?
- * Does your life reflect the Faithfulness of God working in it?
- * Do your passions line up with those of Jesus?
- * Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

- * Paul shares with the Philippians his desire for them to have an ever-increasing love that is also discriminating (full of knowledge and discernment). Discuss what that looks like on a practical level - in your home, in your workplace, in your neighborhood, on the internet, etc.
- * Paul then relates the effects of this discerning love toward our walk in Christ Jesus. How does our exercise of discernment or our lack of discernment - in what we choose to place our affection on - affect our walk in Christ?