

## **Philippians 1: Paul Greet the Church with Joy, Love, and Confidence In Spite of Being in Prison**

**Key Thought:** Paul, on death row, overflows with joy, thanksgiving, and love. The key is found in verse 6: God will complete the good work He started. Believing this verse produces two key attitudes. First, regardless of present circumstances, God is at work and using them to spread the Gospel. Second, we can't lose. Even death is just to gain more of Jesus. Our daily lives should reflect we believe 1:6. Jesus did. He died fully assured that His Father would complete the work He started and that Jesus would rise from the dead. He is doing the same for us.

### **Phil. 1:1-2 Paul's Greeting**

- A bond servant of Jesus.
  - What would make someone volunteer to be the slave of another?
- Paul's wish for all believers: Grace and Peace.

### **Phil. 1:3-11 Paul's Prayer as he Thinks About This Church**

- Very thankful because they are partners; equal, not junior.
- Confidant that God will finish the full work He started when they believed.
- These deep feelings are the natural result of their shared grace, not because of what they can do for him.
  - Do you feel the same way about other believers? God feels that way about us (we didn't buy His grace).
- Love, Knowledge, and Insight leading to fruitfulness which brings praise to God.
  - Love without knowledge and insight is sentimentality.
  - Knowledge and insight without love is harsh and arrogant.

### **Phil. 1:12-18 Paul's Imprisonment Is A Cause for Rejoicing**

- Key attitude: God is doing a good thing in spite of the circumstances.
- The Imperial Guard knows Paul is innocent, and this opens up the Gospel to them.
- The Gospel is spread, even if for the wrong motive.

### **Phil. 1:19-26 Paul's Dilemma; Which Is Better, Death or Life?**

- Key attitude: To the believer, death is only gain.
- Alive: More service, fulfilling Christ's calling on Paul's life.
- Death: With Christ.
- Conclusion: Paul will live, not because he wants it, but because Jesus still has work for him to do. This makes Paul confident.

### **Phil. 1: 27-30: How the Philippians Should Apply Paul's Attitude**

- If you have the 2 attitudes, how should you live?
- Focus on what really matters:
  - Unity with all believers.
  - Contending for the Gospel.
- Be confident, the world will be proven wrong, and they'll know it.
- Be encouraged: You are following Jesus' example and that of other great believers.