

Thankful, Joyful Partnership

Joy Made Complete | Philippians 1:3-5

Review / 1:1-2

Paul wrote Philippians for the sake of unifying the church in the enjoyment and advancement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Unity in the Gospel births communal Joy that results in the advance of the Gospel to the lost.

Verses 1-2 contain a beautiful salutation to “Grace Church Philippi” from their planting pastor, the servant, Paul. In these two verses we learn a great deal about the local church:

- Servants – The Posture of the Church
- Saints – Members of the Church
- Overseers & Deacons – Officers of the Church
- Grace & Peace – The Message of the Church
- God the Father & The Lord Jesus Christ – the Glory of the Church

Apply

1. Read Philippians 1.
2. In verse 1, Paul describes himself as a “servant.” If anyone had a resume that allowed not calling himself a “servant” it was Paul (cf. 3:4-6).
 - a. How does this inform Paul’s posture toward Philippi?
 - b. How does it inform our posture toward the church?
 - c. To all areas of life?
3. Paul writes “To all the saints...with the overseers and deacons.”
 - a. What does this tell us about the nature of living inside the life of a church?
 - b. How can we be with the overseers and deacons?
4. Re-read verse 2. Remember the history of Grace Church Philippi (cf. Acts 16), what impact do you think those words of “grace and peace” had on Paul’s hearers? Do they have the same impact on us? Why or why not?

Study

1. Re-read 1:3-5.
2. Who does Paul thank? Why is this significant? What does this say about the idea/concept of thankfulness? Who is someone of whom you can say, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you.” Why?
3. Why do the Philippians bring Paul joy? What does this tell us about Paul’s understanding of the church and the gospel?
4. The word translated “partnership” is the same word often translated “fellowship.” This word forms one of the main themes in Philippians (cf. “partakers” in 1:7; “participation” in 2:1; “share” in 3:10; “share” in 4:14; “partnership” in 4:15). Using these references, how does Paul describe the Philippians’ “participation” with him throughout the book? Is this often how we think about fellowship? What’s similar? Different? What are some ways Restoration Church partnership with others in gospel work?
5. prayer,” “for you all.” Why do you think Paul is using such sweeping language? What might cause us to do the same?
6. General Bible study questions:
 - a. What do these verses tell us about the character of God?
 - b. What do these verses tell us about ourselves?
 - c. How does this passage point us to and help us delight in Jesus Christ?
 - d. What’s one way this passage challenges or encourages a specific belief or behavior?

Accountability: Are there areas of your your life where you're struggling to view yourself as a servant of Christ? Where are you most aware of God's grace and peace to you?