

Wednesday Night Fellowship Discussion Guide
Philippians 1:1-8
8/30/2023

Sermon Summary

Paul begins his letter to the Philippians with an expression of gratitude for the Philippians. He is thankful for the genuine fellowship centered around the Gospel. The Gospel fellowship he shares with the Philippians has caused them to act with intention and kindness toward him and it causes him to respond in similar manners toward them. The relationship that has developed between Paul and the Philippians stands as a model for us as we seek to build Gospel fellowships with others around us. We too ought to develop Gospel fellowships.

Philippians 1:1–8

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Discussion Questions

Elevating the purposes of God through Gospel fellowships

Philippians 1:3–5

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Paul sought to build Gospel partnerships in each church that he established. What are some ways that you can be involved in Gospel partnerships?

Why is it easier to build projects than to invest in people?

Notice that Paul introduces joy quickly into his statement of gratitude. What are some circumstances in your life in which you are tempted to look at your circumstances for joy rather than finding joy outside of your circumstances?

How does a person maintain joy despite difficult circumstances?

Executing the plan of the Spirit through Gospel fellowships

Philippians 1:6

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Why is Paul so sure of this truth?

What exactly is the “good work” that God is bringing to completion? Be specific, what “good work” is God doing in your work right now?

Exciting the passion of Jesus through Gospel fellowships

Philippians 1:7–8

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

How did Jesus pursue relationships with people who did not know Him?

What normal and regular contacts in your day to day life are fruitful opportunities for loving others like our Savior and sharing with them the truths of Jesus?

How do we develop a heart for other believers similar to Paul’s love for the church at Philippi?

With whom is God calling you to form a Gospel fellowship?