

# **PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST**

(04/26/2020; Philippians 1:1-18; Steve Thiel; Christ Proclamation Church)

**Sermon Theme:** Christians are able to stand firm in the faith as a unified body despite the difficulties and hardships of this life, including the coronavirus pandemic, by putting the good news of the gospel first in every area of their lives, that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

## **I. IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS – (Phil. 1:1-8)**

- A. Personal Greeting to the Church – (1:1-2)
- B. Partnership in the Gospel – (1:3-5)
- C. Perseverance in the Faith – (1:6-8)

## **II. IN OUR PRAYERS – (Phil. 1:9-11)**

- A. Pray for Growth in Love – (1:9)
- B. Pray for Growth in Knowledge – (1:10a)
- C. Pray for Growth in Character – (1:10b-11)

## **III. IN OUR ASPIRATIONS – (Phil. 1:12-18)**

- A. Unbelievers – Hear the Gospel – (1:12-13)
- B. Believers – Bold to Share the Gospel – (1:14-18)

# **OVERVIEW OF PHILIPPIANS**

(Summary of Philippians; Fall 2014; Christ Proclamation Church; Steve Thiel)

## **Background of Philippians (Who wrote it, when, where, and to whom?)**

The Apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians (1:1) to the Gentile church which he planted at Philippi (Acts 16:6-40). The letter was written around 62 A.D. while he was imprisoned in Rome under house arrest (Acts 28:16-31).

## **Occasion of Philippians (What prompted Paul to write this letter?)**

The Philippians sent Paul a gift carried by Epaphroditus (2:25; 4:18). Persecution (1:15-17, 28-29; 2:15; 3:2-3, 18-19) has also resulted in the division (2:3-5; 4:2-3), derailment (1:27), and despair (2:19-30) of these gospel-centered believers.

## **Purpose of Philippians (What did Paul hope to accomplish?)**

Paul wrote to thank them for their generosity (1:3-6; 4:10-19) and to encourage them to stand firm in the faith despite current difficulties, including Paul's imprisonment, Epaphroditus' sickness, false teaching, and persecution.

## **Theme of Philippians (What is the letter about?)**

Believers are to stand firm in their faith as a unified body despite opposition by centering their joy in the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **Outline of Philippians**

### **I. Introduction (1:1-11)**

- A. Personal Greetings (1:1-2)
- B. Heartfelt Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:3-11)

### **II. Exhortation to Stand Firm in the Faith (1:12-4:1)**

- A. Despite Opposition – Paul's Imprisonment (1:12-2:30)
  - 1. By Paul's Example (1:12-26)
  - 2. By Paul's Exhortation (1:27-2:18)
  - 3. By Paul's Encouragement (2:19-30)
- B. Despite Opposition – False Teachers (3:1-4:1)
  - 1. By Rejoicing in the Lord (3:1)
  - 2. By Rejecting Heresy (3:2-16)
  - 3. By Following Paul's Example (3:17-4:1)
- C. Summary Exhortations (4:2-9)
  - 1. Be Unified in the Gospel (4:2-3)
  - 2. Be Rejoicing in the Lord (4:4-7)
  - 3. Be Meditating on what is True (4:8-9)

### **III. Conclusion (4:10-23)**

- A. Heartfelt Thanksgiving (4:10-20)
- B. Personal Greetings (4:21-23)