

Leader Corner

Through Christ

Philippians 1:1-18

Even in prison, Paul's thoughts were with the Philippian church with whom he had a strong partnership in the gospel. Paul had founded the church, and it remained faithful in the partnership with him. Note the repetitions of the word "all" to emphasize the universal participation and unity in the wide-ranging partnership. We too can have and should have that kind of an affectionate partnership.

Main Idea: Prayer and partnership in joy-filled suffering

Main Practice: Praying with joy for gospel partners even in the midst of suffering

Main Teaching: Philippians 1:1-18, particularly verses 3-11

Refocus with Praise

Here are the lyrics from an old praise song from Steve Green based on Philippians 1:6.

He who began a good work in you
He who began a good work in you
Will be faithful to complete it
He'll be faithful to complete it
He who started the work
Will be faithful to complete it in you

If the struggle you're facing
Is slowly replacing
Your hope with despair
Or the process is long
And you're losing your song
In the night

You can be sure
That the Lord has His hand on you
Safe and secure
He will never abandon you
You are His treasure
And He finds His pleasure in you

with Prayer

Pray Paul's prayer- Heavenly Father, may our love abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that we may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through You, Jesus Christ- to the glory and praise of You Lord God.

with

Principle

1. Read Philippians 1:1-18 in either the ESV, NIV, or NLT.
2. What caused Paul to feel joy?
3. Describe Paul's feelings toward the Philippians? Why does he feel this way about them?
4. What qualities are important in a church fellowship (verses 5-6, 9-11)?
5. Where do you see God continuing His "good work" in your life, your small group?
6. What was Paul's focus while he was imprisoned?
7. What will help you to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly? What obstacles do you have to speaking the word of God more courageously and fearlessly?

with

Practice

As a group, rewrite Paul's prayer here, undergirding it with joy, and adding in what good works God has begun in you and how He will carry it to completion. Close in prayer.

For Further Focus

Read Acts 16:6-34 and see how the relationship began and developed between Paul and the Philippians.