



Christ in Our Community

Philippians 1:3-8

Overview of Philippians

- Who: Written by the Apostle Paul
- When: Around A.D. 60
- Where: Written from **Prison**, most likely house arrest in Rome.
- To whom: The church in Philippi—a prosperous Roman colony.
- Why: To thank them for their support, to correct doctrinal errors, and to encourage the church in Philippi.
- What: The main theme is **Joy** in Christ.

Big Idea: God's joyful community is a partnership in the Gospel.

1.) Joyful community **Comes** together by the Gospel (v. 2).

- Every letter of Paul begins with essentially the same greeting: “Grace and peace to you in Christ.”
 - God’s purpose for the church is to bring glory to His name through the grace and peace He has given us in Christ (John 17:20-23).
 - When many different people come together as one unified body, others see the true nature of God among us.
- Peace is only **Possible** by God’s grace to us in Christ.
 - The order of Paul’s greeting is always the same because it cannot be reversed (Ephesians 2:13-14).
 - It is by God’s grace alone that perfect peace with Him—and therefore with one another—is possible (v. 7).

2.) Joyful community **Works** together for the Gospel (v. 5).-- v. 5 – “...partnership in the gospel...” This phrase is the key to real Christian fellowship.

- Authentic biblical fellowship is a partnership in the Gospel of Jesus.
- Meaningful Christian community is about God's people joining together to make much of Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

3.) Joyful community *Trusts* together in the Gospel (v. 6-7).

-- The joy in our relationships rests in our *Assurance* of the Gospel.

- The chief source of Paul's joy in the Philippian believers was his unshakable confidence that God would complete the good work that he had started in every single one of them through faith.

-- If we are in Christ, God promises to bring us to everlasting glory in Christ. That is a cause to rejoice! (Romans 8:29-31)

-- The doctrine of *Eternal Security* is an essential ingredient of God's joyful community in Christ.

- If anyone is a sincere believer in Christ Jesus, I can rejoice over him because God guarantees His transformation.

-- If true believers could fall from grace, then we could never have the joy in fellowship that Paul displays in this passage.

-- v. 7 – Perpetual joy in our relationships is possible because, as believers in Christ Jesus, we all share in God's *Joy*.

- Where human relationships lack the foundation and force of the Gospel, then they cannot share in the joy of the Gospel.

4.) *Partner* together in the church for the sake of the Gospel.

-- v. 2 – True joy begins only and ever at the cross of Christ.

-- v. 3 – Get in the habit of thanking God for everyone in the church.

-- v. 4 – Pray with joy for your partners in Christ.

-- v. 5 – Live and labor for the Gospel. Accept no substitutes.

-- v. 6 – Start seeing people in light of who God is *Creating* them to be.

-- v. 7 – Celebrate in each other the grace we have received to become God's forever family in Christ.

-- v. 8 – Let us long for one another with an affection so sincere that God himself can testify to it.

-- God wants you to know and experience the joy of living out a partnership in the Gospel today and every day.