

I. Shared Faith - Phil. 1:1-2

1. Pattern of a letter for Paul's time: (**verse 1**)
 - name of the sender, identity of recipients, greeting
2. Paul and Timothy are the writers
 - not as co-author
 - singular pronouns later show that Paul is author
- Rea -but the letter is from both
3. Paul does not call himself "apostle" as in other letters
 - probably a more personal letter - not formal
4. Their "self-identity" - servants
 - Rea -how would it change church if we all saw ourselves as "servants?"
 - submission to Christ
 - humility
5. Those in Philippi - God's holy people - people set apart
 - together with overseers and deacons
 - these two groups are the leaders of this local church
- Rea -in all the controversy over "elders" note that here they are not named
6. Grace and peace to you (**verse 2**)
 - Rea -may God bless you in these two ways - with grace and peace
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Paul does not claim his rights - to be called "apostle"
 - some want us to always remember they are "doctors"
 2. A letter from a "servant" is better received than one from a "dr"
 3. By opening the letter in these positive ways he would get a "better read"

II. Thankful Faith - Phil. 1:3-8

1. On every remembrance he was thankful (**verse 3**)
 - Rea -wouldn't it be great if all your friends thanked God every time they remembered you?
2. Prayed with joy (**verse 4**)
 - note for "all" of you
- Rea -we immediately are curious as to why he has joy about them... verses 5ff
3. Joy because of their: (**verse 5**)
 - A. Partnership - from the beginning
 - it began with Lydia's hospitality - Acts 16:15
 - the jailer who was saved at night - Acts 16:33-34
 - B. This church financially supported Paul - not common
 - felt it needful to make tents to "make a living"
4. He is confident that God will bring to completion what He has started (**verse 6**)
 - how long? - until the day of Christ
- Rea -God isn't just interested in getting us saved and baptized but in our continual service
5. You all share in the work of God (**verse 7**)
 - I have you in my heart

Rea -they supported him even when he was in chains
 -ongoing support, through all the ups and downs of ministry

6. Heartfelt love

 -I have you on my heart (7)
 -the affection of Christ (**verse 8**)

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. These were not just “church members” but real people
 -the church has lost the personal aspect of the family of God - probably because we’ve opted for the “big” church, as if God is into size, like we are
2. They were “in this together”
 -they expressed that in the money they sent Paul
3. So... though he is in prison, he is still in the ministry??

III. Growing Faith - Phil. 1:9-11

1. Prayer for love that abounds - more and more (**verse 9**)

Rea -many are able to say they “love the brethren” but this love is different it “abounds”

2. A certain type “love” - in the knowledge and depth of their insight

Rea -the more you know Him, the more you love Him

3. God’s love needs be intelligent as well as emotional

4. If you have this love (verse 9) then you will grow more and more in discernment

(**verse**

10)

Rea -determine the best from second best
 -“discern” determine what is worthwhile

Rea -this type know will determine what we are “into” and what we are not

5. Also he prayed they be pure and blameless - watching for Christ’ return

 -“blameless” is behavior - “pure” is the heart from which the blameless life issues

6. Filled with the fruit of righteousness (**verse 11**)

Rea -not just have fruit but be filled with it

7. Fruit comes through Jesus

 -we don’t produce fruit we only bear it

Rea -we abide, and the fruit happens naturally - John 15

Rea -my take... often there is more profession than fruit. The lost world needs to see fruit, not just hear words.

8. Fruit is for the glory of God

Rea -the best “witness” we can offer is the witness of a changed life

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. This “prayer” for the Philippians contains no prayer requests about their health, or finances, etc... why do you think that is?
2. If believers are “fruitless” why is that?
 -Jesus cursed the fig tree because it bore no fruit
3. Paul cared deeply for the Philippians - not sure we care that deeply for one another
4. Out of a heart of love - springs prayer