

Thrive: A Study in the Book of Philippians

Philippians 1:1-11 –May 3, 2020

Key Idea: Living in such a way to thrive spiritually.

Five Remarkable Features of Philippians

1. The Strategic Setting of Philippi

Every follower of Jesus is strategically positioned to be a blessing

2. The Diversity of the Philippian Church

The all-embracing nature of Christianity

3. The Purpose of the Letter – Encouragement

4. The Theme of Joy in Challenging Circumstances

Paul writing from prison is uniquely positioned to speak about joy

5. The Greeting of the Letter: Grace and Peace (1:1-2)

Letter addressed to the saints in Christ Jesus, which describes this close relationship of being “in Christ Jesus”

Grace: All that God has done for you (undeserved love)

Peace: What we experience in our relationship with Christ

“The greatest saints are not those who need less grace, but those who consume the most grace, who indeed are most in need of grace—those who are saturated by grace in every dimension of their being. Grace to them is like breath.” Dallas Willard

Three Observations of Paul towards the people of Philippi.

1. Paul had a heart of confidence in the power of God. (1:3-6)

In the same power the Philippian church was started, God would finish His work, giving a great reason for hope. We have assurance in Christ that God will finish what He has begun in us

2. Paul had a heart of compassion. (1:7-8)

Compassionate response to need and brokenness has always been a marker of a thriving church! Examples: Plagues of 2nd century, Famine in Acts 11

Cautious about grand theories and trying to determine causes of suffering. More time spent on a practical, loving response.

3. Paul was concerned for the priorities of growth. (1:9-11)

- Grow in Love
- Grow in Knowledge (a relational knowledge), we more easily love those we know
- Grow in Holiness - (Pure & Blameless) - Pure motives, Blameless actions
 - “This is beneath your dignity. You were meant to house the fullness of God.”*
 - John of Kronstadt
- Producing Fruit of right relationship with God and others
- Through Jesus Christ - Jesus is the key to thriving