

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-8

Sermon Reflection Questions

These questions are designed to help individuals, families, and small groups discuss and apply passages in the Philippians sermon series as taught at Grace Bible Church in fall 2018.

Observe & Interpret

Read Philippians 1:1-8. What did Paul see in the lives of the Philippian believers that caused him to give thanks to God? Why was there such a deep bond between Paul and the Philippians?

In Philippians 1:5, what did Paul mean by “fellowship” or “participation” (Greek: *koinonia*) in the gospel? Note that Paul uses a closely related word in 1:7; 2:1; 3:10 and 4:14-15 (see also Acts 2:42; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 9:13).

What is the “good work” which God will complete in verse 6? Specifically, was Paul referring to the progress of the gospel in the world (God’s work THROUGH them) or an individual’s personal sanctification (God’s work IN them)? Take note of the immediate context and the overall purpose of the book (see especially 1:12).

Apply

In what ways can we have “fellowship” (or become “partakers” or “participants”) in the gospel today (see Philippians 1:19, 27; 4:15-16; 2 Cor 8:4)? Get specific, and choose one to work towards this week.

What kind of community (or *koinonia*) do you hope to experience this year in your small group? Describe what an ideal group would be like.

Memorize: Philippians 1:6. For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.