



EXALTING JESUS CHRIST

PROCLAIMING GOD'S GRACE

## **“Living as Partners in the Good News”**

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

**MAIN POINT:** PAUL AND THE PHILIPPIANS PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOOD NEWS SERVES AS A MODEL WE MUST PURSUE IN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN THE LOCAL CHURCH.

### **I. Paul’s Thankfulness (vs. 3-5)**

“...he perceives that their interest in him is a reflection of their continued commitment to the gospel, and that is why he thanks God for them.” (D. A. Carson)

“Christian fellowship...is self-sacrificing conformity to the gospel. There may be overtones of warmth and intimacy, but the heart of the matter is this shared vision of what is of transcendent importance, a vision that calls forth our commitment.” (D. A. Carson)

### **II. Paul’s Confidence (vs. 6-8)**

*“...chose us in him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,” (Eph. 1:4-5). Note: see also 1 Thes. 5:24; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; and Rom. 8:29.*

### **III. Paul’s Prayer (vs. 9-11)**

#### **A. God’s Glory (“God on display.” J.I. Packer)**

God is glorified when:

- 1) Love Abounds (vs. 9a)
- 2) Knowledge and Discernment Grows (vs. 9b)
- 3) Excellent Choices Made (vs. 10a)
- 4) Life Lived for That Day (vs. 10b-11)

#### **Application/Discussion Questions:**

- 1) Are you thankful to God for the partners in the good news you have? When do you plan to communicate to your partners in the good news your thankfulness to God for them?
- 2) Where have you placed your confidence for the future work of God in your partners? Has your confidence been misplaced?
- 3) How can God change your attitude towards partners you’ve lost faith for to grow or change?
- 4) What motivates your prayers for your partners in the good news?
- 5) In what ways can your prayers grow to reflect Paul’s for the Philippians? How will you put this into practice this week?

