



Greeting and Prayer for the Philippians

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion

Objective: Begin our study through the Letter to the Philippians

Read Philippians 1:3 - 5 - Partners in Ministry - Partners in the Faith

- After opening his letter to the Church in Philippi, Paul immediately encourages the believers of his thankfulness to God for their partnership in the Gospel!
- When Paul thinks of the believers in Philippi, it brings joy to him and stirs him up in his prayer time.
- Paul is thankful for the support and partnership in the ministry of the Gospel that the church has exhibited toward him.
- The relationship between Paul and the believers in Philippi from day one seems to have been fruitful for the work of the ministry, we can all learn from this and strive to extend the same support to each other!

Read Philippians 1:6 - 8 - Standing for the Gospel

- We know that the good work started at our new birth will be brought to completion at the return of Jesus - we are in an ongoing regenerative work, being transformed into His Image!
- We partake of God’s Grace together in all we do.
- As such, we must stand together when one is burdened (in Paul’s case, imprisonment), as well as in defending the purity of the message of the Gospel!
- Our lives should defend the whole Gospel and confirm the work of the true Gospel!
- We can learn from Paul, in that those who are faithful to toil in the labor of the Gospel with us, we should yearn to be with and love with Christ’s Love

Read Philippians 1:9 - 11 - Continual Growth in Christ!

- Paul again returns his letter to encouraging the recipients that he is praying for them. He expounds that the content of these prayers is for abounding love, knowledge and discernment!
- Why would his prayer for them contain these? Verse 10 illuminates the reason. So that the believers could approve what is excellent, being pure and blameless for the Day of Christ.
- Paul also longs for them to be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus, so that their lives bring glory and praise to God!
- We cannot look past or take for granted the importance of this growth being active in our lives. If we cannot identify what is excellent, pure and righteous, how can we possibly defend the Gospel.
- It would be very difficult to defend the Gospel message, if we are not continually growing in it!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: Do you understand the importance of “partnering” in the work of the Gospel?

- While the partnering can definitely be of the financial nature, prayer, fellowship and unity in our partnerships are just as valuable!
- It is a blessing to sow into the local church, as well as traveling ministries that are centered in our local church - it is through this “partnership” mentality that we help make the ministry of the Gospel more fruitful.

Question 2: Do you understand the necessity to be faithful in defending the fullness and purity of the Gospel?

- If the church is not willing to defend the purity of the Gospel, who will? The world? The Gospel was given to the church to preach to all creation!
- We need to hold a strong and faithful conviction to always represent and stand for the truth of the Gospel and not politically correct forms of the message that will be more popular!

Question 3: Why is it important to continually grow in our faith?

- The more we grow, the more powerful we can present the Work of Jesus in the earth!
- The more we grow, the more we can love as Jesus loved!
- The more we grow, the better we will be equipped to discern our days and live lives full of the knowledge of God!
- The more we grow, the more intimate our purity, and righteousness through Christ becomes evident!
- Most importantly, a life of continual growth accomplishes all we have discussed and so much more, yet nothing as great as the Glory and Praise it brings to God!

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data