



PHILIPPIANS

BASICS FOR BELIEVERS

Lesson One:

Put the Gospel First (Part 3)

Philippians 1:1-26

Modern developments contributing to the dangerous temptation to domesticate (or, tame) the gospel:

1. Secularization (p. 13)

Processes that squeeze religion to the periphery of life.

2. Self-indulgence (p. 14)

More important to be comfortable and secure than to be self-sacrificing and giving.

3. Philosophical pluralism (p. 14)

Knowledge of objective truth is impossible; therefore, no religion has the right to pronounce another wrong ... The sole heresy has become the view that there is such a thing as heresy.

(p. 16) In his absence, what two actions does Paul encourage the Philippians to do?

What is Paul's burden as he writes to the Philippians? What is God telling us by His Spirit through these same words today?

Put the gospel first!

- I. Put the fellowship of the gospel at the center of your relationships with believers. (1:3-8)
- II. Put the priorities of the gospel at the center of your prayer life. (1:9-11)
- III. Put the advance of the gospel at the center of your aspirations. (1:12-18a)
- IV. Put the converts of the gospel at the center of your principled self-denial. (1:18b-26)

PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST.

I. Put the fellowship of the gospel at the center of your relationships with believers. (Phil. 1:3-8)

Paul's thankfulness to God for what he knows is operating in the lives of these believers.

1. Their faithful memory of him — they are committed to Paul's success in gospel work.
2. Their fellowship in the gospel.
The heart of true fellowship (partnership) is self-sacrificing conformity to a shared vision (p. 18) — a vision that calls forth our commitment.
3. God's continuing work in their lives.
Evidence is the perseverance in holiness and truth.

PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST.

- I. Put the fellowship of the gospel at the center of your relationships with believers. (Phil. 1:3-8)

Application time!

What does *putting the fellowship of the gospel at the center of our relationships with fellow believers here at Grace Church Williamsburg* look like? (see top of p. 22 for some hints 😊)

(p. 21 – “But what must tie us together as Christians is this passion for the gospel, this fellowship in the gospel.”)

PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST.

II. Put the priorities of the gospel at the center of your prayer life.

(Phil. 1:9-11)

Three features of Paul's prayer for the Philippians:

1. The love of the Philippians may abound more and more.
2. Their love will become more knowledgeable of God.
Growth in the knowledge of God and gaining insight into His ways requires repentance - a lessening of self-focus and increase in our love for God and others. (p. 23)
3. They will pursue what is best (excellent) in the sight of God.

PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST.

II. Put the priorities of the gospel at the center of your prayer life.

(Phil. 1:9-11)

Application time!

What does *putting the priorities of the gospel at the center of our prayer life* look like?

(p. 25 - Gospel prayers for gospel fruit in order to bring glory to God!)

PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST.

III. Put the advance of the gospel at the center of your aspirations.

(Phil. 1:12-18a)

Two outcomes of Paul's caring more about the advance of the gospel than for his own personal comfort:

1. The whole imperial (Praetorian) guard and everyone else heard about Paul's arrest and imprisonment for the sake of Christ. (v. 13)
2. Most of Paul's brothers in the Lord were encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. (v. 14)

PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST.

III. Put the advance of the gospel at the center of your aspirations.

(Phil. 1:12-18a)

Application time!

What does *putting the advance of the gospel at the center of our aspirations* look like?

(p. 30 – Are your aspirations so important that your highest aspiration as a Christian – advancing the gospel for the glory of God - is squeezed to the periphery or choked-out altogether?)

PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST.

IV. Put the converts of the gospel at the center of your principled self-denial. (Phil. 1:18b-26)

1. Paul's joy is rooted in his deliverance (vv. 18b–20)
2. “To live is Christ” means living for the ministry of others (v. 21)
3. Paul's internal tension is between personal desire and others' spiritual need (vv. 22–24)
4. Paul concludes that remaining alive best serves the church's joy and maturity (vv. 25–26)

PUT THE GOSPEL FIRST.

IV. Put the converts of the gospel at the center of your principled self-denial. (Phil. 1:18b-26)

Application time!

What does *putting the converts of the gospel at the center of our principled self-denial* look like?

(p. 36 – “Often we are tempted to evaluate alternatives by thinking through what seems best for us. How often do we raise as a first principle what is best for the church?”)

The first chapter of this book emphasizes to **put the gospel first**

- I. Put the **fellowship** of the gospel at the center of your **relationships with believers**. (1:3-8)
- II. Put the **priorities** of the gospel at the center of your **prayer life**. (1:9-11)
- III. Put the **advance** of the gospel at the center of your **aspirations**. (1:12-18a)
- IV. Put the **converts** of the gospel at the center of your **principled self-denial**. (1:18b-26)

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