



PHILIPPIANS

BASICS FOR BELIEVERS

Lesson One:
Put the Gospel First (Part 2)
Philippians 1:1-26

What is the gospel?

Especially

God's good news about His salvation from sins in Jesus Christ.

Generally

God's nature, character, ways, life, and will in His walking Word, Jesus Christ, and in His written Word, the Bible.

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.

Encouragement in two main spiritual objectives for holy living: (p. 16)

- To maintain basic Christian commitments
- To be on guard against an array of dangers

These dangers are located in two areas of life:

- Temptations from within
(Prov. 4:23, 3:5-8; Jer. 17:9-10)
- Spiritual seduction and opposition from without
(1 Cor. 16:13; 2 Cor. 11:3)

What is Paul's **burden** as he writes to these Christians?

What is God telling **us** by His Spirit through these same words?

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)

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. What does Paul mean by their partnership with him?

The heart of true fellowship is self-sacrificing conformity to a shared vision — a vision that calls forth our commitment.

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.
2. What does Paul mean by their partnership with him?
3. God's continuing work in their lives.

Q: What evidence for this work is Paul focusing on?

A: 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?

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.

What kind of knowledge does Paul mean?

What will work against this process of you growing in the love in Christ for God and others?

What one spiritual characteristic is required for your growth in this love-informed knowledge of God and His ways for your life?

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.
3. They will pursue what is best in the sight of God.

Gospel-centered prayers are concerned with what is best for knowing God, what is best for another person, and what is best to please Jesus in all things.

Praying to see God glorified and praised in the life of another person helps keep our hearts focused on gospel priorities, and it helps us fight against selfishness and pettiness in our prayers.

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?