



8/25/26

A Gospel Primer's 12th reason for rehearsing the gospel to ourselves every day goes really well with today's passage. It focuses on our inheritance in the saints, how that effects the way we view each other. The author said, "The more I comprehend the full scope of the gospel, the more I value the church for which Christ died, the more I value the role that I play in the lives of my fellow-Christians, and the more I appreciate the role that they must be allowed to play in mine." It's like he read today's passage!

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Philippians 1:1-11

The church at Philippi was definitely a Kingdom Outpost church. The story of how Paul helped plant this church is found in Acts 16. They responded to the gospel with fervent faith. Paul wrote a letter to them while he was in prison for his faith. It blows my mind because I can see Paul's joy exuding from the words of this letter. His love for the Lord was unshakable, and his love for these people was genuine.

According to vs. 1-2, Paul wrote this letter with Timothy. Timothy was from Philippi. When Paul went there on a missionary journey, Timothy left with him to serve alongside him in the gospel. It seems appropriate that Paul would include Timothy in this letter. He was family.

I love how Paul addressed this church. First, he was an apostle, but he gave himself and Timothy the title, servant. They were servants of Christ by choice. He called the church "the saints". All believers in Christ Jesus are saints, not because of what we do, but because of what Jesus has done for us. This letter was also written to the "overseers and deacons", those who helped lead the church. Every church needs leaders who will be faithful to preach the word without apology and shepherd the church. But let none of us think that they're the only ones with a job to do. Every believer in the church matters. Paul kept addressing them as "you ALL" throughout this letter.

He gave them his usual but very important greeting that he gave to most of the churches, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." These words can become as plain as when we say, "Hi. How are you?" And the other person says, "Fine. How are you?" It's just a greeting that spills off our tongues with no thought. But this greeting from Paul carried enormous weight. He wrote with the authority given to him by the Lord, so he could speak of His grace and peace for them... and for me.

So... what does a Kingdom Outpost church look like according to Philippians 1:3-11?

Vs. 3-5 ~ Paul spoke of deep gratitude as he continually prayed for the people of this Kingdom Outpost. He said, "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." Let me not miss this. A Kingdom Outpost is only as strong and effective as the faithfulness of prayer. We can't be representing the Kingdom of God well without praying for our church.

Also, if I continue to read this letter, I'll see that there are some issues Paul had to deal with in the church. But he still started with gratitude. A Kingdom Outpost church focuses more on reasons to be thankful than reasons to complain. That means that the individual people in the church need to focus on gratitude over complaint. O Lord, this can be hard. I will only overcome complaining as I bring it all to You.

A Kingdom Outpost church focuses on the gospel. The gospel is not just for salvation. The gospel teaches us how to forgive, how to be thankful, how to love others, why we should bow to the Lord. It teaches us humility and holiness. The gospel changes the way we think and what we choose in life... as we partner together with the gospel centered church in being a light to the world... simply by being faithful to the Lord and loving each other biblically.

Vs. 6 ~ A Kingdom Outpost church has hope in the Lord and not in SELF. "And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Paul's confidence was not in the ability of the people, but in the ability of our God. We can KNOW that if God began a good work in us... salvation... He will carry it on to completion. God's good work is to make us holy like He is! A Kingdom Outpost church has the same purpose for ourselves as the Lord has for us... to be holy like Jesus. That's the work He's doing in all our circumstances. The question is, are we on the same plan? It goes a lot smoother when we are... He loves us too much to help us go down a path that will lead us to unholiness. Unholiness, contrary to what the world teaches, is misery.

We have the confidence that God will never give up on us... He will work in us all the way until He takes us home. The phrase, "You can't teach an old dog new tricks" is not one the Lord subscribes to.

Vs. 7-8 ~ A Kingdom Outpost church is a partaker in grace, not legalism, with its leaders... and not lifting up a freedom that doesn't align with His word. Grace is anchored in the generosity

of God's love, not law. And grace is anchored in a genuine, surrendered relationship with the Lord because of what Jesus did for us, even though we don't deserve it. Paul said, "It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus." Paul celebrated that they were partakers of grace with him.

Also, as partakers of grace WITH Paul, they did not shrink away from him when he went to prison for defending the gospel. A Kingdom Outpost church is not ashamed of the gospel no matter who has a problem with it. They will abandon other believers when the world is against them for standing on the word of God... Together we sing, "The B.I.B.L.E, yes that's the book for me. I stand alone on the word of God. The B.I.B.L.E. Bible!"

A Kingdom Outpost church is known for having the affection of Jesus, from the top down. Paul said he YEARNED for them ALL with the affection of Jesus. This is gut level compassion. It starts with JESUS. Jesus is affectionate toward His people!!! So... as the leadership follows Him, the affection of the leadership toward the church grows, and hopefully, the affection of the whole church toward each other grows. O Lord, please grow this more and more in our Kingdom Output church!

Vs. 9-11 ~ A Kingdom Outpost church is known for a genuine love based in knowing Jesus, discerning what pleases Him, and growing our righteousness before God. Paul said, "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

Paul's prayer was that our love would grow. What is biblical love? Biblical love grows in knowledge of God, experiencing Him at a deeper and deeper level. It's also a discerning love, helping us to understand what is excellent in God's eyes so that we as a church can become more and more pure in heart and be found blameless when Jesus returns for us.

A biblical love grows in the fruit of righteousness that only comes through Jesus. A Kingdom Outpost church is known for biblical love that doesn't compromise that righteousness for anyone. Being true to the Lord means that our church is the perfect blend of love AND righteousness. The world teaches that love may mean doing what's unrighteous. But love in God's eyes will not negate righteousness. This is perfectly found in Jesus. The cross was the perfect example of God's love on display. Because of His love, Jesus went to the cross. Because of His perfect righteousness, the penalty of sin was paid for on the cross. As the lyrics of an old song go, "Justice and mercy meet at the cross."

So... A Kingdom Outpost church...

- *Prays*

- *Focuses on reasons to be thankful more than reasons to complain*
- *Focuses on the gospel*
- *Puts its hope in the Lord*
- *Partners with the leaders in the grace of God, not legalism and not exploiting freedom*
- *Takes a stand for the gospel with others who take a stand for the gospel*
- *Loves others with the affection of Jesus*
- *Loves Jesus and grows more and more in knowledge and discernment*
- *Doesn't compromise righteousness for the sake of love*

O Lord, You want the whole church to be a Kingdom Outpost church. Please make this so in our church. Please make it so in me.