

Put the Gospel First

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, November 16th; Steve Thiel

Paul wrote the Philippians to encourage them to stand firm in their faith by putting the gospel first in every single area of their lives. In the midst of difficult circumstances and persecution, this is the only way to persevere in the faith until the day of Christ Jesus. Begin this study by reading Philippians 1:1-26.

I. Put the gospel first in your relationships – Philippians 1:1-8

- A. What observations do you make about Paul's personal feelings towards the Philippians?
- B. Paul clearly loves the church in Philippi, but why do you think he loves them so much?
- C. Why is Paul confident that these believers will continue to persevere in the faith (1:6)?
- D. What are some practical ways that you can grow in putting the gospel first in your relationships?

II. Put the gospel first in your prayers – Philippians 1:9-11

- A. How would you categorize Paul's prayers for these believers (1:9-11)?
- B. What do you think it means for their "love to abound more and more" (1:9)?
- C. In what ways can you put others first in your prayers? How can you be praying for others?

III. Put the gospel first in your aspirations – Philippians 1:12-18

- A. How has Paul's imprisonment served to advance the gospel? List at least two ways.
- B. What does it mean to preach Christ from envy and rivalry? Who do you think is doing that?
- C. Paul is in prison and is being afflicted (v.17). Why then is he rejoicing (v.18)? And how?
- D. How can you grow in putting the gospel first in your life goals and aspirations?

IV. Put the gospel first in your personal desires – Philippians 1:19-26

- A. Paul knows that this will all turn out for his "deliverance". What does he mean by that?
- B. In Paul's astonishing statement (v.21), what does "to live is Christ" look like for him?
- C. According to verse 23, what is Paul's personal desire? Why is being with Christ far better?
- D. What do you think it looks like to put the gospel first in your personal desires?