

Confidence

Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Part 1

May 17th, 2020

Write notes in your Bible so you can **FIND** things when you **NEED** them

The Bible contains the **INSIGHT** and **WISDOM** given to us by God

Philippians 1:1-2 (NIV) "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: ²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

How It All Started – Acts 16:6-40

(see Acts 16:6-10)

Philippi was Paul's **THIRD** choice (see Acts 16:11-12)

Paul's ministry in Philippi got off the a **TOUGH** start

Acts 16:13 (NIV) "On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there."

There were not enough Jews in Philippi to have a **SYNAGOGUE**; there were no **MEN** at the prayer meeting

Acts 16:14-15 (NIV) "14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. 'If you consider me a believer in the Lord,' she said, 'come and stay at my house.' And she persuaded us."

Paul's ministry at Philippi goes from bad to **WORSE** (see Acts 16:16-21)

Acts 16:22-24 (NIV) "22 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. ²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks." (see Acts 16:25-40)

A Statement of Confidence

Philippians 1:3-6 (NIV) "I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Philippians 1:7-8 (NIV) "7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus."

Notice the "what" – God will **COMPLETE** what He started, and the "why" – their confidence is based on

their previous partnership with Paul in **MINISTRY**

Paul had seen the **FRUIT** of God working in their lives

Confidence is not based on **WISHFUL** thinking, but it is based on **SPIRITUAL** fruit

Philippians 4:14-16 (NIV) "14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need."

The Philippian Christians had **EVIDENCE** that Christ was truly the **LORD** of their lives

Important principle: The Bible wasn't written **TO** us, it was written **FOR** us.

When studying Scripture there are two questions you need to ask: What did it mean to them (**ORIGINAL** recipients)? What do these principles mean to **ME NOW**?

Ask, "Is this passage "**DESCRIPTIVE**" or "**PRESCRIPTIVE**"?

A Prayer for Discerning Love

Philippians 1:9-11 (NIV) "9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God."

The loving thing is not always the **OBVIOUS** thing

Loves needs **KNOWLEDGE** & **DISCERNMENT** – which helps us determine the **RIGHT** thing to do

Spiritual Confidence: How to be certain that God's on our side

- **Six things we don't want to put our confidence in...**

1. **Living up to my moral standards**

Isaiah 64:6 (NIV) "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags."

What matters is **GOD'S** standards – not mine

2. **SINCERITY and ZEAL** (see Romans 10:1-4)

3. **A strong RELIGIOUS heritage** (see Ezekiel 18)

God looks for a change in our **HEART** and giving Him the steering wheel of our **LIFE**

4. **Good INTENTIONS** (see Matthew 21:28-31)

5. **A profession of FAITH**

1 John 2:3-5 (NIV) "3 We know that we have come to know Him if we keep His commands...." 4 Whoever says, 'I know Him,' but does not do what He commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. 5 But if anyone obeys His word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in Him."

6. **A good START** (see Matthew 13:18-23)

No farmer is happy with a quick start but no **HARVEST** – same principal is true spiritually

- **Biblical confidence: It's always based on the same two things...**

1. **FAITH** – Trust in God's **POWER**

2. **FRUIT** – Evidence of God's **PRESENCE**

My Next Step Today Is:

- I am choosing to put my faith in God's power and not my own
- I am giving Jesus the steering wheel of my life and asking God to produce spiritual fruit, evidence of God's presence in my life

Join us next week as we look at Philippians 1:12-30 – A Beautiful Mind. Please invite a friend!!!