

Small Group Bible Study / Discussion

Sermon Series: Joyful Faith

Sermon Title: Be a Partner in the Gospel

Date: April 26, 2009

Passage: Philippians 1:1-8

Message # 1

Think about it

- Who do you share life with and how?
- What gives you great joy?
- What are you living this life for?
- What is God doing in you that you can celebrate?
- What is God doing in someone else that you can celebrate?

Examine it

- Who is writing this letter, and to whom are they writing? (1)
- How does Paul greet the Philippians? (2)
- What does Paul do as he thinks about the Philippians? (3)
- What does Paul say about praying for the Philippians? (3-5)
- What did the Philippians partner with Paul in? (5)
- What was Paul confident about? (6)
- How does Paul describe his relationship with the Philippians? (7-8)

Discuss it

- What does this passage tell you about the relationship of Paul and this church?
- How does Paul begin this letter? What does that teach us?
- What kind of encouragement does Paul give the church? What does that mean for us?
- Why do you think Paul was so confident about God's work in the Philippians?
- What does it mean to "share in God's grace"?
- Paul was in prison when he wrote this. How does that challenge or encourage you?

Live it out

- Are you in a partnership in the gospel? Why, or why not?
- Who are you sharing in ministry with?
- What does sharing in the gospel ministry do to one's life?
- How confident are you that God will complete the work He has started in you?
- What might we do to encourage each other, the way Paul encourages his readers?
- What does encouragement do for you?
- Is there someone in our church that you might encourage this week? How will you?

Pray about it

What does this study prompt you to pray about?

...something to praise God for? ...thank God for? ...confess? ...ask for?

Additional passage for meditation or memory: Ephesians 4:15-16; Philemon 4-7; 1 John 1:1-7

Next week's passage: Philippians 1:9-11