

*Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes*

**Sermon Notes for April 7-8, 2001**

**"Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Philippians"**

**Philippians 1:3-8**

**Dale Whitehead**

The joy Paul is referring to in verse four is not related to the deep down confidence that all is well with him in spite of his circumstances, but that all is well in the Philippian Church in spite of their circumstances.

Paul was thankful for their participation in the gospel.

Because of their participation in the gospel he knew that all was well with the Philippians in spite of their circumstances.

"In view of your participation in the gospel" means that the Philippians were working together with Paul to advance the gospel.

The Philippians and Paul, because of their mutual participation in the gospel, were enjoying true Christian fellowship.

In modern use, the word fellowship has come to mean warm fellowship with believers. In the first century the word commonly had commercial overtones. It did not speak of a warm fellowship but rather joint participants in a venture (Romans 15:26). The heart of true fellowship is a self-sacrificing conformity to a shared vision, which flows out of our devotion to Christ.

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The Christian vision is holiness (Ephesians 1:4).

We experience the closeness of Christian fellowship when we see each other pursuing the Lord sacrificially.