

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for May 5-6, 2001

"Paul's Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Philippians"

Philippians 1:3-8

Dale Whitehead

Paul was thankful for his memories (Philippians 1:3).

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Paul was thankful for their participation (KOINONIA) in the gospel (Philippians 1:4-5).

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Paul was thankful that the work which was begun in the Philippians would be completed (Philippians 1:6).

Why was Paul so assured that when Christ presented his bride to himself without spot or wrinkle or any such thing that the Philippians along with himself would be there?

The subjective answer to the question of Paul's assurance is that he had the Philippians "in his heart."

The word "heart" both in Hebrew and Greek came to mean that which is central. It encompasses our mind, will, and emotions (2 Corinthians 2:4, 4:6, 9:7).

The objective answer to the question of Paul's assurance is that they were joint "partakers of grace" with him in his imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

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Paul and the Philippian Church were dependent upon God's grace to sustain them during Paul's Roman imprisonment (2 Corinthians 8:1-3).

The Philippians needed God's grace because their gift to Paul while he was in prison most likely was beyond their financial ability (2 Corinthians 8:1-3).

The Philippians needed God's grace during the illness of Epaphroditus (Philippians 1:25-26).

The word "defense" implies the defensive side of the Apostle's preaching, the process of removing obstacles and prejudices. The word "confirmation" denotes the aggressive side, the direct advancement and establishment of the Gospel.

The source of the affection that Christians feel for one another when they are enjoying Christian fellowship is Christ Himself (Philippians 1:8).