

Being Confident

Philippians 1:1-11

Okay, welcome back and here we go! Today we begin our journey through Philippians. Philippians is a letter written to the believers at Philippi while Paul was in prison in Rome under the Praetorian Guard. It is believed he was in chains, but at a location paid for and not in the dungeon. In fact, it was the Philippians who made some of this possible. Today we will start with *confidence*. The kind of confidence we can only find in Christ. Today I hope to edify us in a way that will continue throughout the week and even forever.

Philippians 1:1-11

- 1) What stands out to you?

There is a lot here, but I would like to start here. Paul and Timothy: a) Bond Servants b) to the Saints.

Two basic doctrinal teachings around here: we are servants and saints. This could have (and in fact was) written to you...

Grace and Peace.

Verse 3: I do this every morning for everyone here. I share a scripture and in that, maintain the fellowship with all of us. A *human thread* --- Jesus and the One Holy Spirit is the *Divine Thread*.

Philippians 1:5

- 2) What is your fellowship in the Gospel?

You know I think we may have different ideas of what this looks like, but Paul does not. The body of Christ, when working together is an amazing experience for those involved. We are all being edified together. We have this fellowship in the Gospel. But it all started somewhere else for each of us.

Philippians 1:6

- 3) What is the good work that God has begun in you?

Each of us are incomplete, myself included. Yet here in the fellowship we complete each other. Paul says in **Verse 7** it is right for him to believe this. He is *confident*. He is in prison and in chains and yet he is praying for them, cheering them on and confessing they are equal partners in what he is doing....

4) Why / Why not – do you have *confidence* in your maturity?

I think it is interesting that again, Paul, incarcerated, is professing joy and *confidence*.

5) God is either working in you or God is working on you. Which one is you? Explain.

Later we are going to get into the themes of this book --- Joy and Like-Mindedness. But for now, how do we find *confidence*?

Isaiah 40:31

I always teach this and we talk about confidently expecting God to show up. When you accepted Christ, He began something in you and in the Body of Christ. It is no longer a question of if you're a part. It is will you participate in your own growth, or will you seek relief in what you always have.

Philippians 1:9-11

The more knowledge you have of God, the more you should be able to discern and the more your impersonal love will grow. Then you will approve what is excellent.

6) What does it mean to be sincere and without offense?

In doing these things Paul teaches: you will have the fruit (***Verse 11***).

In your personal walk today you can be better tomorrow. I believe in you. Jesus Christ started something in you. Now He just needs you to believe in Him and in yourself. Ask yourself.

7) a) What is my next victory?

b) Where do I start?

Most importantly, do not be down on yourself. God is aware of your need.