



Key References:

"The most divine Caesar... we should consider equal to the Beginning of all things... for when everything was falling into disorder... he restored it once more and gave the whole world a new aura; Caesar... the common good Fortune of all... The beginning of life and vitality... The Providence which has regulated our whole existence... has brought our life to the climax of perfection in giving to us the emperor Augustus... who being sent to us and our descendants as Savior, has put an end to war and has set all things in order; and having become god manifest, Caesar has fulfilled all the hopes of earlier times." - Inscription on Roman government building

Philippians 1:5–7 (ESV) – because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Philippians 1:9–11 (ESV) – ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so 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.

Philippians 1:12–13 (ESV) – I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

1 – WELCOME TO PHILIPPI

What do you remember about the city of Philippi and how Andy introduced the book of Philippians during the Romans empire?

Caesar Augustus referred to himself as the “son of god”; Caesar Claudius was “lord” and “savior of the world”; and Nero was known as “lord of the whole world.” What observations does this give you about the world that Jesus was born into under Roman rule?

Read the inscription about Caesar Augustus. What was the “gospel of Rome?” Why were the apostles so good at getting thrown in jail?

1 – PARTAKERS OF THE ONE TRUE GOSPEL

Read Philippians 1:3–7. How did the Gospel of Jesus Christ need to be “defended” (v7) against the gospel of Rome?

What is the meaning of “confirmation of the gospel” from v7? How is the gospel confirmed through testimonies & power in our meetings?

2 – LIVING IN THE LIGHT THIS NEW GOSPEL

Read Philippians 1:8-11. Here Paul shows them a workflow of living in the light of the gospel. Discuss at length the 6 points found in v9-11 and why they are each equally important to each other.

- 1 - your love may abound
- 2 - with knowledge and all discernment
- 3 - so that you may approve what is excellent
- 4 - and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ
- 5 - filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus
- 6 - to the glory and praise of God

3 – A LOVE TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

Acts 16 is an overview of how the Philippian church was planted. From the Holy Spirit sending them, to the conversion of Lydia, to the slave girl being set free, and then the jailer being converted. From this Andy raised four questions. 1) How does we need to be listening to the Holy Spirit to advance the gospel? 2) How does God reach people one person at a time? 3) How must we go in the power of the Holy Spirit? 4) How can we use our imprisonment for Christ?

Read Philippians 1:12-13. What is your limitation or “imprisonment”. How can God use our limitations and transform them to advance the gospel?