Introduction to Philippians Chapter 1
Paul wrote this Epistle between 60-62 AD while he was imprisoned (1:7, 13, 17). The trial he faced could end in his execution (1:19-20, 25; 2:17, 24). Paul’s purpose in writing this letter was his concern for the church that he founded during his missionary journey through Asia Minor (Acts 16:11-40; 20:1-6).

Outline
2) Thanksgiving and prayer---1:3-11
3) Rejoicing in trials---1:12-30

Study
Paul and Timothy (who may have written the letter for him) start the letter with the traditional greeting, “Grace to you.”

Read verse 1. To whom does Paul specifically address this letter?

Read verses 3-5. Paul thanks them for their fellowship in the Gospel. What does Paul mean by “the gospel”? (See - 1 Corinthians 15:1-3)

God’s work in our life does not stop once we are saved. Note: This process of spiritual maturation is known as SANCTIFICATION.
Read verse 6. What does this verse say regarding God’s role?

When did God begin the “good work” in your life?

Name one specific area in your life that needs the most work?

List 3 specific steps you could take to allow God to work in this area.

What word does Paul use in verse 6 to show he had no doubts?

What does this indicate about the eternal security of the believer?

Read verse 7. Why is Paul in prison?

Sometimes we do not understand God’s purposes when we experience difficult circumstances. Paul was imprisoned yet saw the proclamation of the Gospel and service for Christ as His sources of encouragement. Examine his attitude and the result of making the cause of Christ the highest priority in your life (verses 12-14). The ability to face unexpected changes in life is not a natural response. It is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. What situations are you facing that can only be faced with this type of insight?

Read verse 9. What are the elements for which Paul prays? Explain each one and how they are related.

Read verse 10-11. What results does Paul seek?

The Greek word translated “pure” or “sincere” comes from two words: “the warmth and light of the sun” and “to judge.” The idea is holding something in the light to fully inspect its purity. This is the kind of life that bears fruit. Only Jesus Christ produces it.

Read verses 18-19. For what 2 reasons did Paul rejoice?
Verse 21 is considered to be one of the key verses in the book of Philippians. Rewrite it in your own words.

**Note:** Paul’s expression of thanksgiving to God teaches us several key principals:
- Praise to God for the other Christians who share in your desire to follow Christ (vv. 3-8).
- Prayer for those who desire to walk with Christ (vv. 9-11).
- Acceptance of difficult circumstances (vv. 12-21).

**Read** verses 22-26. It is obvious that Paul knew he would be with Christ if he died. What purpose for remaining does he give?

How can you apply this “philosophy” in your life? Be specific.

In verse 27, the command is to conduct yourselves in a worthy manner. The verb used means to live as “citizens of a state.” Of what “state” should Christians consider themselves “citizens”? *(Read Philippians 3:20)*

**Read** verses 27-30. List several ways in which your lifestyle reflects your “citizenship?”

The attitude Paul expects is courageous faith which he indicates with the use of the term “stand firm”. We may not face the same type of persecution as 1st century Christians, but we still must stand firm. The persecution we face may be in the form of temptation or the ridicule of teammates or family members when we try to live a Christ like life. What “persecution” have you faced this week?

**Memorize Philippians 1:6.**