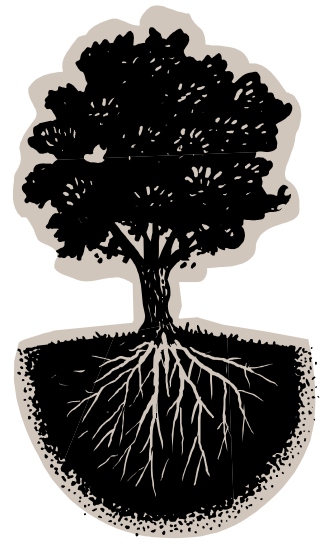


'Back to Basics for Believers Series' Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians



Message 2 - The Marks of a Healthy Christian Philippians 1: 3 - 11

Paul after his initial greeting demonstrates in his writing how the Philippians should do their utmost to put the fellowship of the gospel right at the centre of how they relate to other believers and the relationships that they share with them. An aspect of this would be to put the concerns of the Gospel, in its declaration and advance as a priority in their prayers. These were and are vital lessons for believers, yet, in addition to this, through his writing and exhortations, we are able to see some of the 'Marks of a Healthy Christian'. These were:

- 1. A Healthy Christian has a Thankful Heart** – As believers, we should be a thankful people. First and foremost for the work of grace that God has done in our hearts by drawing us to Himself. However, we should also have thankful hearts as we see Him working in the lives of others. It is a comforting thing to know that God is building His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Do you have a thankful heart?
- 2. A Healthy Christian is a Praying Christian** – Paul was a man who prayed for the Philippians, always remembering them in his regular times of prayer. He prayed not only for the natural welfare, but most importantly for their spiritual welfare, that they might grow, and have a deeper understanding of the love and grace of God. Do we pray for one another?
- 3. A Healthy Christian Desires Fellowship** – We saw how that real gospel fellowship is good fellowship, but that it extends beyond sharing friendship. Real fellowship is the uniting and coming together of believers in the common purpose of labouring for the gospel together. We should not forsake the gathering of the Lord's people. Do you desire true gospel fellowship?
- 4. A Healthy Christian Has Hope and Assurance** – Paul speaks of a real assurance that a believer can have if God has truly saved him, and there is a work of grace. Not because of any merit a man or woman might have, because their salvation does not depend on them, but it is the work of God, who will then sustain His people and bring them home. If you desire assurance, you must look to the giver of life! He is the most dependable and consequently wholly dependable for your future. Rest in His hand, and He will lead you safe home.
- 5. A Healthy Christian is One Who Grows** – Paul prays that the Philippians might grow in their faith, and that they might grow to maturity in Christ. He prays for them in this respect and illustrates what he is praying for. We should desire with the essential aid of the Holy Spirit to grow in grace, and their will be evidences of growth. How we should pray for one another and encourage one another to grow!



Penzance Baptist Church 'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'

Pastor Jonathan Stobbs