

“It is God’s Work in you That Matters”
Philippians 1:1-7
(A Practical Picture of Discipleship-A Study of Philippians)
July 10, 2011

Scripture Reading – Phil. 1:1-7

Being a disciple of Jesus is being aware of what God is doing in you and through you.

1. Clarify your God-given identity.
 - “saints” – Set apart by God from the world and unto Him. (1:1,2)
 - “servants” –obligation and allegiance of my life is to serve Him. (1:1)
2. Give God credit for what He is doing in you and through you. (1:3-4)
 - Thankful prayers. (1:3)
 - Joyful prayers. (1:4)
3. We have been given the privilege of cooperation with God and God’s people.
 - Participation in the Gospel. (1:5)
 - Partakers of grace with one another. (1:7)
4. Have confidence that God will complete in you what He has begun. (1:6)

Application:

1. How do you feel about your identity in Christ? Are you consistently giving God credit for what He is doing in you?
2. The key to doing the will of God is seeing Him at work and joining Him. Pray that this week you will not only see what He is doing but you will have the wisdom and courage to act on it.
3. Pray for a new confidence that the Lord is still at work in your life and He will not walk away before the job is done.

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion
"It is God's Work in you that Matters!"
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1. Review Acts 16 and identify the first converts to Christianity in Philippi. Discuss the personality of such a church with such diversity of people. What does Paul call them in Phil. 1:1? Are all Christians "saints?" (I Cor. 1:2; Acts 9:32) What is the significance of the phrase "in Christ?" (Romans 3:22-24; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:20)
2. When Paul refers to them as "bondservants of Christ Jesus," what does that mean? (I Cor. 7:22-23; Rom. 12:1) Is this a positive term? Why? Describe the character of our Master that makes the Christian want to serve Him.
3. The two kinds of leadership groups for the church are also mentioned in Phil. 1:1. What are the distinctions between the two groups? (Acts 20:28-31; Acts 6:1-4) What two words in Phil. 1:2 describe our relationship with God? How far reaching are those two words with everything we do with God and for Him?
4. As a family and as a church we should always be thankful for one another. We always talk about making some "memories." Read Phil. 1:3 and identify some of the memories Paul had of his time in Philippi. (Refer to Acts 16) Discuss how it is possible to be "thankful" even when things are difficult. (I Thess. 5:18) What is the difference between the joy of the Lord and happiness? (Phil. 1:4) Review the Scripture on the "joy" of the Lord and identify the ways to experience that joy.
 - Psalm 16:11 -
 - John 15:11 -
 - Rom. 14:17 -
 - James 1:2-3 -
 - I Peter 4:13 -
5. As Christians we are not alone. In Phil. 1:5 we are linked with other Christ-followers. (Also 2 Cor. 7:3) How does Paul describe the church in Eph. 4:16? What do we all have in common? (Phil. 1:7) Share a time recently where the input of other Christians really helped you.
6. The follower of Christ has an inner confidence of what? (Phil. 1:6) What was the reason God began a work in us? What is He seeking to accomplish? (Eph. 2:10; Rev. 4:11; Rom. 8:29) Have you ever started a project but had a difficult time completing it? Why? How do we see His work in us? (Gal. 3:3)
7. In what way does the Lord protect us? (Jude 24; I John 4:4; Psalm 37:24) When is "the day of Christ Jesus?" (1:6; I Thess. 4:16-17; Phil. 1:23; I John 3:2) Thank the Lord for the work He is doing in you right now.