

- I. Who we are, who you are, who Jesus is. (verses 1-2)
 - A. Here's who we are. (see Romans 11:13; Galatians 2:8; 1 Timothy 2:7; Acts 16:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14-15)
 - B. Here's who you are. (see Acts 16:6ff.; 20:6; 1 Thessalonians 2:2)
 - C. Here's who Jesus is.
 - D. Grace to you, and peace!

- II. Here's why I thank God for you. (verses 3-8)
 - A. Partnership in the gospel
 - i. they are committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ!
 - ii. this is the core of their relationship
 - iii. this is the beginning of everything practical that follows
 - B. Certainty that God will continue his good work in them
 - C. Partnership in grace
 - i. Paul's imprisonment: in Rome, 60-62 AD
 - ii. how are the Philippians his partners in grace?
 - a) in his imprisonment
 - b) in carrying out a parallel struggle in their own city (2 Corinthians 1:17)
 - D. Paul misses them!

- III. Here's what I pray for you. (verses 9-11)
 - A. They *have* love (see 2:3; 4:2-3)
 - B. They *need* moral wisdom
 - i. "abound ... in knowledge and discernment"
 - ii. "that you may *recognize* what is excellent"
 - iii. starting point: God's word! (see Romans 2:18)
 - iv. we must seek the Spirit's guidance and carefully discern what God's will is
 - C. A new situation for the gospel
 - i. many dilemmas and questions to negotiate
 - ii. we are in a new situation for the gospel too
 - iii. this is not a job for specialists!
 - D. Why? the Christian horizon ("the day of Christ," v. 10)
 - E. How? the power is from Christ (verse 11; see Matthew 3:15; Romans 8:4)

- IV. The supremacy of Jesus Christ
 - A. Jesus Christ is the Holy One (Psalm 16:10; John 6:69; Acts 2:27)
 - B. Jesus Christ is the heart of the gospel for all nations (Acts 2; 16-17; Romans 1:16)
 - C. Jesus Christ is the excellent one whom we recognize (2 Corinthians 3:18)