Sunday Sermon Notes	
THE BIG IDEA	

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?



Philippians 1:3-8

Paul and the Philippians

Philippians 1:7

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

Friendship is an important part of life. God created us not to be alone, but for fellowship (Genesis 2:18). While many relationships come and go, a relationship established in and by God will endure. In these few verses Paul's close relationship with the Philippians is clearly seen. He begins by offering thanks to God for these believers, then he is reminded of their goodness to him and their willingness to share in the demands of the Gospel ministry. While Paul is grateful for the friendship of the Philippians his confidence is not in them but in the God who saved them and him. As Paul demonstrates, relationships built in the Gospel of Jesus and fostered in joint ministry will last a lifetime.

Part 1 – A Cause for Thanksgiving

Read Philippians 1:3-5 and Colossians 3:15-17

1) For what does Paul say he is grateful?

2) How do our relationships with others affect our gratitude according to Colossians 3?

3) Make a list of whom you are thankful and why.

Part 2—A Cause for Confidence

Read Philippians 1:6 and 2 Timothy 1:12

- 1) Why was Paul confident concerning the Philippians?
- 2) How did Paul's confidence (or persuasion) affect his commitments according to 2 Timothy 1:12?

3) Why do you think some Christians lack confidence today?

Part 3—A Cause for Fellowship

Read Philippians 1:5, 7, and Acts 2:41-47

1) What did Paul and the Philippians "share"?

2) According to Acts 2 how important should fellowship be to the church and why?

3) In what ways can you better experience Christian fellowship?

Part 4—A Cause for Affection

Read Philippians 1:7-8 and 1 John 3:17

- 1) In the culture of Bible times "bowels" were the seat of emotion much like the "heart" in today's culture. Whose "bowels" were working in Paul and how is that significant?
- 2) According to 1 John 3:17 what is the link between our "bowels of compassion" and our relationship with God?
- 3) What causes you to "long after" fellowship with other believers?

Don't forget the Big Idea!