

Sermon Topic: Care, Chains And The Cross

Sermon Text: Philippians 1

Preaching Point: *The affectionate care that Paul and the church of Philippi demonstrated for one another could not be constrained by chains. It travelled the distance to reach and support one another in evident love because of the Cross of Christ.*

INTRODUCTION

What is an Epistle:

- a letter , contains community concerns
- How many epistles in the New Testament?

LETTER TO PHILIPPIANS

Who is the author, audience, courier? What is the background?

A. Paul shared about his p_____ and p_____ for the believers in Philippi.

*“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for **ALL OF YOU**, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...it is right for me to feel this way about **ALL OF YOU**, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, **ALL OF YOU** share in God’s grace with me...I long for ALL OF YOU with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer (for ALL OF YOU)....”- (vs 3-11)*

Implication: PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER:

- i. Pray for faithful love (vs 9-10): a love that is not bias or blind but discerning. A love that is associated with moral insight and moral knowledge to know “what is best, pure and blameless” till Jesus returns.
- ii. Pray for fruitfulness (vs 11): a lifestyle that exhibits good and kind things which show us to be a child of God, for this brings much glory and praise to the Lord.

- B. Paul shared about his **c**_____, his **c**_____ and his **c**_____ to the believers in Philippi.
*“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that **I am in chains for Christ**. Because of **my chains**, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of God more courageously and fearlessly...some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so in love...the former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while **I am in chains**. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.” - (vs 12-19)*

Implication: PLAY A ROLE IN THE LIFE IN OUR PASTOR’S/PREACHER’S WORK:

- i) By our actions

- ii) By our attitude

- iii) By our affections

“Stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the Gospel” - vs 27b

Questions For Reflection And Application:

- 1) What things, specifically, does Paul pray for in verses 9-10? How do these things compare with your priorities as a Christian?

- 2) If we have one another in our heart, how would it affect the way we relate to one another, especially in their difficult moments?

- 3) What was Paul’s “crime”? What are “true motives” for preaching the gospel mentioned in vs 12-18?

- 4) In what ways can we conduct our lives in a way worthy of the Gospel mentioned in v27?

- 5) What is God saying about your action/attitude/affection towards those who bring God’s Word to you?