



January 10/11, 2015

Accomplices of Grace

Philippians 1:1-11



OBSERVE & REFLECT

(This section is designed to encourage us to reflect on and observe the scripture and weekend sermon)

READ Philippians 1:1-11

- ▢ Read the text at least twice. Try reading the text from two different translations.
- ▢ What do you observe in the text? What jumps out at you and grabs your attention? What questions do you have from the text? Pay attention to any action words or phrases and observe what the implications are.
- ▢ Reflect on the sermon from the weekend regarding this passage. What aspects or truths from the sermon left an impression on you and why?

INVESTIGATE & APPLY

(This section focuses on what the scripture has to say as we dig deeper into the Word. It is oriented to create discussion on the scripture)

- ▢ In verse 1 Paul uses the word 'bond-slave' or 'bond-servant' of Jesus Christ. This was a term was known in 61AD (about the year Paul wrote this letter). What do you think a modern-day bond-slave would look like? (When processing this, know the role of a bond-servant was to serve those who he/she are closest with)
- ▢ In verse 2, Paul uses the words, "grace and peace" in his letter (as he does always). There was purpose behind the order of words and why he wrote the word grace first. When grace is given...then grace is received...then peace is experienced. Think back to the message on what grace really means (a gift without the expectation of return, a gift you did nothing for, full acceptance of who you really are with no hiding, no secrets, full disclosure; it's no judgment, and it's giving what is good all the time). Currently in your life how are you giving others that grace? How can we be more intentional about being dispensers of grace? Also, have you ever received grace from someone? If you can, share how it changed you.
- ▢ Again in verse 2 as Paul speaks of **grace**, this was understood as grace that was **given & received**. In verse 6 he talks about that same grace but that when it is received it has the **power to transform** on the inside (he refers to it as "starting a good work"). Then in verse 8 he talks about how that grace that transformed him is **now coming (so pouring) out** of him to others. Paul is saying the grace of God transforms the inner person and when that person is transformed on the inside, then a new way of life happens on the outside. Also Paul reminds us we don't stop transforming until, "the day of Jesus Christ"(verse 6). So how is God working in your life? In what ways on the inside or on the outside (in your actions) is God transforming you? Also affirm how you see God working in the lives of those in your group. Take some time and speak these truths into their life.
- ▢ Look at verses 9-11. Pray this prayer together as a group by reading through it slowly out loud. Do this two times. Who could you pray this prayer over right now? Who in your life could benefit from this prayer right now (who is that one person)? Take a moment and close by silently praying this prayer specifically for that individual. Grace & Peace to you.

NEXT STEPS

(This section is how to 'put the rubber to the road' so to speak, and is created for us to grow deeper with each other as we process the implications of the text)

- ▢ What aspect of this study do you want to apply to your life this week?