



PHILIPPIANS: PART 1

Pastor Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: Who has lived an extraordinary life that has inspired you? What was it about their life that made it extraordinary?

READ: *Philippians 1:1-11 (ESV)*

FOCUS: In this passage, we see extraordinary living requires that we embrace God's grace to participate and grow.

OBSERVE:

- **An extraordinary life is one that is lived in the midst of struggles for the benefit of others and the glory of God.** The key is the grace of God- which is God's undeserved favor and power at work in our lives. This passage highlights two areas where we need grace.
- **(1:4-7) We embrace grace to participate.**
 - The key was participation in the Gospel mission. Paul didn't highlight who gave more and who gave less. What mattered was that the whole Philippian Church participated in the Gospel mission through giving. The church was giving towards a ministry that they weren't directly benefitting from.
 - There are two types of Christians: participators and spectators. Participators contribute their time, talents and treasure to the Gospel mission whereas spectators criticize, consume and comment.

- There are many reasons why Christians are spectators rather than participators. Some have been hurt by the church, others are selfish, others fear failure and rejection and others lack understanding.
- (Vs 6-7) The good news is that God's grace is available for us.
- **(1:9-11) We embrace His grace to grow.**
 - We are called to grow as a body of believers. Grace is released for growth in the context of relationships. Relationships that are superficial are never really beneficial.
 - Love increases and abounds through knowledge and discernment. Knowledge and discernment are so vital because they help us to know how to love best.
- **We embrace God's grace by receiving Jesus (the source of grace) as Lord, praying and sharing life with each other.** We serve each other, love one another and are on mission together.

REFLECT:

- Are you a participator or a spectator in the Gospel mission?
- What are reasons why you may be drawn to being a spectator rather than a participator?
- In what ways, if any, have you grown in the past year?

TAKE ACTION:

- Embrace God's grace to participate by joining the Go Team.
- Embrace God's grace to grow by joining a Life Group.

PRAY: *Father, thank You that because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, we can receive Your grace to participate and grow. We repent for ways in which we have simply been spectators rather than participators. Help us to fully participate in the Gospel mission and, in the context of this community, grow together with others in love, knowledge and discernment. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

