

Discipleship 101

2020-10-18 by Ben Deaver at Tallgrass Church on Philippians 1:1-2

Superspreader!

I've been praying that this morning's event, the first Tallgrass Church Central Gathering in the Boys & Girls Club of Manhattan, would be a superspreader event! I've been praying that you would be a superspreader! Can you imagine if that were true? How might your life and my life be impacted? How might our church grow? How might we infect our community? It would be totally awesome!

Philippians 1:1-2 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAY!

- Who is this letter from? Paul...AND Timothy... but it's written by Paul. But Timothy is right there with Paul. This is a very important relationship.
- My goal this morning is for you to leave excited about discipleship and the book of Philippians.
- "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, writing to all the saints in Christ Jesus"—Let's chat discipleship!
- Timid Timmy
 - Paul was a guy who came to faith in Jesus while heading to persecute and even kill followers of Jesus. He was a rough dude with a rough story.
 - Timothy, on the other hand, was a young guy who it seems was pretty timid. Some call him Timid Timmy.
 - Paul scooped up Timothy after refusing to take a different guy, Mark, with him on a journey because Mark had left the work, presumably because he was scared. You can read about this in Acts 15 and 16.
 - **Acts 16:1-5** Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.
 - **1 Timothy 1:2a** To Timothy, my true child in the faith
 - **1 Timothy 4:12** Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.
 - **1 Timothy 4:15** Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress.

- **2 Timothy 1:6-7** ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
- **Philippians 2:19-24** ¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.
- So if Paul has a bunch of heartache from lots of relationships and this one guy, Timothy, who he can send to the church in Philippi, why discipleship? Because it works! It's a slower approach to growth than just renting a big space and drawing a crowd. That will get things going quickly, but not in a sustained and deep way. Discipleship is the slower but longer-term growth model that makes a wide and DEEP impact.
- Discipleship is the way to infect the world in a way that sticks.

So why discipleship?

- Because of its high infection rate!
- *Why outbreaks like coronavirus spread exponentially, and how to "flatten the curve"* in The Washington Post on March 14, 2020—
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/world/corona-simulator/>
- Check this out! <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2020/health/coronavirus-how-epidemics-spread-and-end/>
- We want to infect the population with the Gospel. How is the most effective way to increase the curve, not flatten the curve? Discipleship! We want to infect the world with the love of Christ. If you want to flatten the curve, don't engage in discipleship.
- Being a passive, consumeristic, church observer, or better yet, someone who just stays home, is like washing your hands regularly and masking up and socially distancing. You probably won't infect anyone if you act like that.
- We want discipleship to infect the population at a high rate!
- Imagine if our church gathering was a superspreader event for Covid-19. That would be terrible! But imagine if our church gathering was a superspreader for the Gospel. That would be amazing!

Traditional Model / Institutional Paradigm vs. Discipleship Model / Organic Paradigm

- Look at these examples of high infection rate through discipleship in the New Testament.
 - **Philippians 1:12-14** ¹² I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers and sisters, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
 - **Colossians 1:4-6** ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole

world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.

- It’s growing, it’s spreading!
- I think about Summer Renberg’s Baptism Celebration at Pott Lake No 2. Summer Renberg could be a superspreader!
- I think of the babies we’ve celebrated recently, Archie Johnson and Annie Geldart, and the babies we’ll be celebrating soon, Daniel Schmitz, Kane Boeckman, and Bruce Chapman. They could each be superspreaders!
- I think of the House of Hezekiah guys and the impact God could make through them.
- I think of Tallgrassians in our neighborhood, on the west side of town, further west into Riley or Junction City, on Green Valley road, out towards St. George and towards Wamego, those who are connected to our church but don’t even live here. God can spread the Gospel globally through each and every one of us.
- Paul’s goal is to spread maturity in Christ to EVERYONE!
 - **Colossians 1:28-29** ²⁸ He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.
- This is what Paul encouraged Timothy to do, discipleship!
 - **2 Timothy 2:1-2** You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, ² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.
- We’re looking for a remnant that will renew the whole, starting with our church and then our city and then our state and so on and so forth!
- We’re looking for a little yeast that will leaven the whole loaf of our church and spill out into the community! You know that loaf of bread that just wants to jump outta the pan?
- We’re looking for some superspreaders so contagion can break out in our area that can’t be contained!
- We’re looking to develop some oxen!
 - **Proverbs 14:4** Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.
 - It’s gonna be messy around here! It’s ok if you make a mess. But we’re going to get work done.
- Why are you sitting here this morning? There are many reasons and ways of looking at that question. One correct answer is that you are sitting here this morning because Paul disciplined Timothy. I’m guessing that each and every one of us can trace our spiritual lineage back to Paul and Timothy in some way. And for those of us who don’t yet claim to believe in Jesus, which is definitely ok if that’s you and you’re here, if you do come to faith in Jesus, then you too will trace your spiritual lineage back to Paul and Timothy.
- This is relational work. Discipleship is pandemic proof. This is how the church has been growing from the beginning...through the relational work of discipleship!
- We’ve had the category of discipleship from the beginning of Tallgrass Church. We’ve had some great discipleship happening! But it’s been a struggle to help more people take steps towards discipleship.
- So we’re trying to make it simple to take a solid step towards discipleship.
- This is our main strategic priority for the rest of 2020 and in to 2021—DISCIPLESHIP!!!

Discipleship 101—*The Gospel-Centered Life*

1. One-on-one or a triad (2-3 people)
 - Men with men and women with women.
 - This will give you at least one solid connection within Tallgrass Church or one solid connection outside of our church that we can come alongside you with. This is what we NEED, relational connection within our church family.
 - Help one another stay engaged and connected with the life of our church and your neighborhoods. Gracious accountability! EmPHASis on GRACIOUS!
2. Peer relationships are great!
 - You may find someone who is clearly more spiritually mature than you who can disciple you. Or someone who is clearly less spiritually mature than you who you can disciple. That's great!
 - But for many of you, you need a peer, someone who may be at the same level of spiritual maturity, to walk alongside you. We can disciple one another. Iron sharpening iron, as Proverbs 27:17 talks about.
3. 10 meetings over 2-3 months
 - You don't have to keep meeting after you walk through this book together. Maybe you'll want to keep meeting or maybe this is it. Either way, that's success.
 - If you started this week and met weekly without breaks then you'd finish by the end of 2020, just in time for the New Year and a new plan.
 - If you met every other week then you'd finish by early March 2021, just in time for a new plan for Easter.
4. Meet in person or via Zoom—Pandemic proof!
 - Need to get some sunshine and stretch the legs for your mental and emotional well-being? Go on a walk and talk!
 - Have to quarantine for some reason? Fire up the Zoom Machine!
5. Meet for 1.5 hours weekly if possible, just an hour and/or bi-weekly if necessary
 - I like to have margin with meetings...but not too much margin. I've found that an hour-and-a-half is a good amount of time for something like this.
6. Open and close with prayer
 - It takes a little courage to initiate the prayer.
 - Protect the time to pray together at the end.
 - Build your prayer strength together!
7. Come prepared—Grace abounds! You get out of things what you put into them.
8. Flexible framework! Some of you struggle with the framework side and need to try to stick with a plan whereas some of you may struggle with the flexible side and may need to loosen up on the plan at times.

Who will you meet with to walk through *The Gospel-Centered Life* with?

- Prayerfully consider who you might invite into this study next
 - Connect with someone who's in our church family.
 - Connect with someone who's not yet in our church family. You could say, "Our church is encouraging us to walk through this book on the Gospel with someone. Would you help me out by walking through it with me? You don't even have to agree with it all but you may really enjoy it. Plus, I'd love to get to know you better anyways."
 - If you need help thinking about who to walk through *The Gospel-Centered Life* with then please ask for help. I may already have an idea in mind for you.
 - Earlier this week I committed to walk through *The Gospel-Centered Life* with someone and then they plan to also walk through it with someone else who's younger in the faith. We had a great conversation about how I can help him walk through this.
- Take a moment to ask God if He has anybody in mind for you to initiate with.
- **PAUSE**
- Being initiated with is awesome! Examples: ????
 - Discipleship in my life: I always thought older guys were too busy to meet with me for discipleship. I pridefully figured that they needed to spend time helping someone else grow because I'd probably be fine on my own.
 - Some may feel that they could never grow so why waste time meeting with me?
 - We can all grow in our faith in Christ! We all have good works that have been prepared by God for us to walk in.
- Initiating with another takes courage and is rewarding!
- We would love if everyone in our church walked through *The Gospel-Centered Life* with someone by February. That would be a huge step for our church. I believe God would do amazing things in individual's lives and in the life of our church. I believe that would send us into Easter 2021 with lots of enthusiasm and life-change.
- What happens if you get through this book quickly and you're wondering what could be next? Or maybe you've already worked through this book with someone and you're wondering what might could be next?

Discipleship 201—What's the next right step?

1. Discipling disciplers—*Organic Discipleship: Mentoring Others Into Spiritual Maturity and Leadership* by Dennis McCallum and Jessica Lowery
2. Specific growth area
3. Explore spiritual gifts
4. Soul Care

Intro to Discipleship 101 today and Philippians NEXT WEEK!

- Some of y'all are like, "But where's our intro to Philippians this morning?"
- Some of y'all are like, "Oh no, Ben's going to launch into his intro to Philippians now!"
- Don't worry, friends! We have time to study and apply Philippians together. This morning was our intro to Discipleship 101. Next week is our intro to Philippians.
- Philippians will hit you exactly where you're at, if you'll be receptive to the Spirit of God.
- Philippians will hit our church exactly where we're at, if WE'LL be receptive to the Spirit of God together.

Homework:

1. Ask someone to work through *The Gospel-Centered Life* with you.
 - a. Or respond to someone who asks you.
2. Handwrite out the upcoming passage (Philippians 1:3-6).
 - a. This will help slow down your engagement with the Scriptures.
 - b. Dedicate a journal to our study together.
 - c. Grab one of the Tallgrass Church notepads if needed.
 - d. Need a Bible? We have one for you! Take it home. Turn it into a *Study Bible*!
3. Practice lectio divina with the passage.
 - a. Lectio divina, or holy reading, is another way to slow down your engagement. Just work through the upcoming passage for Central Gathering.
4. Read Philippians aloud...in its entirety...twenty times!
 - a. Read through the whole letter in its entirety once each week (for 20 times total). It will take you about 14 minutes to read aloud. You can do this by yourself or with someone else.
 - b. Ask yourself, "Why did Paul write this letter to the church in Philippi?"
 - c. Look for themes. Look for repeated words or phrases or ideas. Then take note of one of them the next time you read through it all.
 - d. Here are a couple ideas:
 - i. "in Christ Jesus"—Remember our "in Him" study, Tallgrass Guys Group guys? Here's Paul using "in Christ Jesus." Pay attention to all the "in Christ" or "in Him" references. What's true because we are "in Christ"?
 - ii. Philippians is often referred to as the Joy Letter! "Joy" 5x and "rejoice" 7x. Go look for those references!
 - iii. That's all for now!
 - e. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/how-to-change-your-mind/>
 - f. <https://jamedders.com/how-long-does-it-take-to-read-each-book-of-the-bible/>
5. Read background of the Philippian church in Acts 16:12-40 and 20:1-6.
 - a. <https://www.thebiblejourney.org/biblejourney1/10-pauls-journey-to-phrygia-macedonia/paul-arrives-in-philippi/>

The Chopping Block:

Central Gathering Flow:

- Joy (5 min.)
- Come Thou Fount (5 min.)
- Dismiss to Sprouts & Mingle (5 min.)
- Preach (40 min.)
- Way Maker (5 min.)
- Vision for the space (5 min.)
- All Creatures of Our God & King + Holy, Holy, Holy (5 min.)
- Benediction (5 min.)

Homework:

- SWORD Drill
- The Bible Project—<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Training/Post/View/231123>
- Phil Vischer—<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/KidsSeries/293649?episode=1>

Discipleship Resources:

- *The Chopping Block #13: 13 Misconceptions about Discipleship*—
<https://tallgrass.church/news/2019/06/20/tcb-13-13-misconceptions-about-discipleship>
- *Personal Discipleship—Practical Tips* by Gary DeLashmutt—
<https://www.xenos.org/teachings/?teaching=2213>
- *Organic Discipleship: Mentoring Others Into Spiritual Maturity and Leadership* by Dennis McCallum and Jessica Lowery—https://smile.amazon.com/Organic-Discipleship-Mentoring-Spiritual-Leadership/dp/0983668108/ref=sr_1_1?crd=2CW66U2J9P4U7&keywords=organic+discipleship&qid=1560185383&s=gateway&srefix=organic+disc%2Caps%2C321&sr=8-1

Why Philipians?

- The Joy Letter! “Joy” 5x and “rejoice” 7x.
- “joy” 5x
 - Philippians 1:4 ...always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy...
 - Philippians 1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith...
 - Philippians 2:2 ...complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
 - Philippians 2:29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men...
 - Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
 - The way you get to joy is to rejoice! Joy is a state of being. Rejoice is a verb. It’s something you CHOOSE to do! You can rejoice no matter what you have going on. The more you rejoice the more joy you will experience.
 - Joy vs. Happiness
 - Happiness is based on happenstance, your circumstances, and is fleeting.

- Joy is a deep and abiding contentment that is beneath all circumstances.
 - This is why we need DEEP ROOTS. This is why we need a FIRM FOUNDATION. We need JOY!
- “rejoice” 7x
 - Philippians 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice...
 - Philippians 2:17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
 - Philippians 2:18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.
 - Philippians 2:28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.
 - Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.
 - Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
 - Philippians 4:10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

in Christ

1. [Philippians 1:1](#) Paul and Timothy, servants of **Christ** Jesus, To all the saints **in Christ** Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:
2. [Philippians 1:26](#) so that in me you may have ample cause to glory **in Christ** Jesus, because of my coming to you again.
3. [Philippians 1:29](#) For it has been granted to you that for the sake of **Christ** you should not only believe **in** him but also suffer for his sake,
4. [Philippians 2:1](#) So if there is any encouragement **in Christ**, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,
5. [Philippians 2:5](#) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours **in Christ** Jesus,
6. [Philippians 3:3](#) For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory **in Christ** Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—
7. [Philippians 3:9](#) and be found **in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith **in Christ**, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—
8. [Philippians 3:14](#) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God **in Christ** Jesus.
9. [Philippians 4:7](#) And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds **in Christ** Jesus.
10. [Philippians 4:19](#) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory **in Christ** Jesus.
11. [Philippians 4:21](#) Greet every saint **in Christ** Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you.

Timothy

1. [Acts 16:1](#)

Timothy Joins Paul and Silas

Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named **Timothy**, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

2. [Acts 16:3](#)

Paul wanted **Timothy** to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

3. [Acts 17:14](#)

Then the brothers immediately sent Paul off on his way to the sea, but Silas and **Timothy** remained there.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

4. [Acts 17:15](#)

Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens, and after receiving a command for Silas and **Timothy** to come to him as soon as possible, they departed.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

5. [Acts 18:5](#)

When Silas and **Timothy** arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

6. [Acts 19:22](#)

And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, **Timothy** and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

7. [Acts 20:4](#)

Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and **Timothy**; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

8. [Romans 16:21](#)

Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

9. [1 Corinthians 4:17](#)

That is why I sent you **Timothy**, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

10. [1 Corinthians 16:10](#)

When **Timothy** comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

11. [2 Corinthians 1:1](#)

Greeting

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and **Timothy** our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

12. [2 Corinthians 1:19](#)

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and **Timothy** and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

13. [Philippians 1:1](#)

Greeting

Paul and **Timothy**, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

14. [Philippians 2:19](#)

Timothy and Epaphroditus

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

15. [Philippians 2:22](#)

But you know **Timothy's** proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

16. [Colossians 1:1](#)

Greeting

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and **Timothy** our brother,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

17. [1 Thessalonians 1:1](#)

Greeting

Paul, Silvanus, and **Timothy**, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

18. [1 Thessalonians 3:2](#)

and we sent **Timothy**, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

19. [1 Thessalonians 3:6](#)

Timothy's Encouraging Report

But now that **Timothy** has come to us from you, and has brought us the good news of your faith and love and reported that you always remember us kindly and long to see us, as we long to see you—

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

20. [2 Thessalonians 1:1](#)

Greeting

Paul, Silvanus, and **Timothy**, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

21. [1 Timothy 1:2](#)

To **Timothy**, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

22. [1 Timothy 1:18](#)

This charge I entrust to you, **Timothy**, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

23. [1 Timothy 6:20](#)

O **Timothy**, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “knowledge,”

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

24. [2 Timothy 1:2](#)

To **Timothy**, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

25. [Philemon 1:1](#)

Greeting

Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus, and **Timothy** our brother, To Philemon our beloved fellow worker

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

26. [Hebrews 13:23](#)

You should know that our brother **Timothy** has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon.

[In Context](#) | [Full Chapter](#) | [Other Translations](#)

Rejoice

Philippians

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to

depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason

for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

4 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

² I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³ Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.