

Philippians 1:1-5 - Keys to Paul's Productivity

Paul was one of the most productive people in the NT -- What was the key to his productivity?

- 1.5 million sq miles (roughly the size of the Eastern US - everything east of the Mississippi river)
- 15 to 25 million people in Asia Minor, Macedonia and Greece and Illyricum

Keys to Paul's Productivity in the Kingdom

Php 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 **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.

1) Values partnership (Paul and Timothy)

- Ecc 4:9 ESV **Two are better than one**, because they have a good reward for their toil.
- Luk 10:1 ESV After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, **two by two**, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.
- When Paul began his missionary journeys it was **Paul and Barnabas** - in his writings he lists close to 50 different people as partners, helpers. In Romans 16 ~over 30 named individuals

2) Embraces servanthood (not someone who maintains his own freedom and serves, **but a slave**)

Php 1:1 Paul and Timothy, **servants** of Christ Jesus.

HE IS A BOND SERVANT - literally a slave - **not much of Paul's life makes sense unless you get this**

- Entirely owned by another - Their life, work, and decisions were under the authority of their master
- It meant total submission, obedience, and loyalty to Jesus as his Lord and Master
- **In Chapter 2 he will speak of Jesus himself taking the form of a slave to the will of the Father**
- Radical reorientation of his identity: no longer independent - belonging entirely to Christ
- A slave's worth was derived from their master, and their status reflected the honor of the master
 - Jesus or Christ is mentioned in 17 of the 30vs in chapter 1
 - 3 ex in vs 1-2: servants of Christ Jesus - saints in Christ Jesus - grace & peace from Jesus
- Slave is seen as demeaning - he Paul sees servitude as an honor
- He sets a high bar for his team by his example - Paul AND Timothy SERVANTS of Jesus
 - 1 Cor 11:1 - Follow me as I follow Christ

3) He values individuals in community (a church)

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

How followers of Jesus are identified or addressed in the NT [identified in the NT](#)

Christian 3x ... Follower 8x ... Saint 62x ... Believe-(ed)-(er) 96x ... Church 117x ... Disciple 273x

- Church often gets a negative press - but it is a way the LORD chooses to view us - a collective, a body
- Linked to the idea of the first point - PARTNERSHIP - the partners in the gospel is the CHURCH

4) He valued and respected cultural differences

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

- He greeted them with Greek and Hebrew typical greeting (Grace and Peace)
- But reminded them grace and peace only come **from** God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Valuing cultural differences within a group like a church reinforces partnership and collaboration

5) He held people in his heart leading to prayer - people were not assets to accomplish work
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**.

AT TIMES HE PRAYED FOR CHURCHES COLLECTIVELY - COMMUNITY

- Rom 1:9-10 ESV For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that **without ceasing I mention you 10 always in my prayers**, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you.
- Eph 1:16 ESV **I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers**,
- 1Th 1:2-3 ESV We give thanks to God always for all of you, **constantly mentioning you in our prayers**, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

AT TIMES HE PRAYED FOR INDIVIDUALS

- 2Ti 1:3 ESV I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, **as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day**.
- Phm 1:4-5 ESV I thank my God always **when I remember you in my prayers**, 5 because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and for all the saints,

6) Joy because their partnership is centered around the priority of Jesus

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**.

- **Partnership is koinonia - fellowship or sharing something in common**
- Our fellowship is in the Gospel - The gospel is also a major theme in this chapter
 - Vs 5 **because of your partnership** in the gospel
 - Vs 7 partakers **in the defense and confirmation of the gospel**.
 - Vs 12 [Paul's] Suffering has served to **advance the gospel** *(advance a military term)
 - Vs 16 [they were faithful to preach the gospel knowing] I am put here **for the defense of the gospel**
 - V 27 let your manner of **life be worthy of the gospel of Christ**
 - Vs 27 striving side by side **for the faith of the gospel**

Summary

If we are to accomplish God's work, we cannot do it alone

We must individually come to the place where we embrace being a slave to Jesus (not just willing to serve)

We must value one another with all our differences knowing the LORD sees us as a church (community)

Our slavery to Christ will move us to proper mission - ie. we will do WHAT HE WANTS -- Advance the gospel

These are some of the keys to Paul's productive life in the kingdom