

## LET'S STUDY PHILIPPIANS

### STUDY 2: Philippians 1:5-11

**AIM:** To explore the bonds of grace and love that are possible among Christians.

1. Paul speaks about God beginning the work in the Philippians (v. 6). Look again at Acts 16:6-40 and list the different evidences of this.
2. On what basis is Paul confident that God will complete this work? What other passages in his writings shed light on this confidence?
3. In verses 7 and 8 Paul says the Philippians are (i) in his heart; (ii) share his grace, and (iii) longed for with the affection of Christ. How would the presence of these qualities make a difference in our fellowship?
4. Is it fair to charge some Christians with 'fickleness'? Are there serious evidences of it? Is it more predominant now than in previous generations of Christians? If so, why?
5. 'The bonds of grace are strengthened by adversity'. How was this true for Paul? How have you experienced that?
6. Paul's prayer (vv. 9-11) focuses on several things. What are they? Explain what you think he means by (i) knowledge; (ii) insight. What is the difference between this and knowledge? (iii) the fruit of righteousness.  
How do you think Paul would have expected this prayer to be answered – how do we grow in these graces?
7. Examine the content of Paul's prayer (cf. also *Eph.* 1:15-21 and *Col.* 1:9-12) and compare it with the content of your own prayers for others. Are there differences? What are they? Why do they exist? What can we learn from these prayers to help us to pray?

**FOR STUDY 3:** Read Philippians 1:12-18a