

Put the Gospel First

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, April 26, 2020; Steve Thiel

Sermon Theme: Christians are able to stand firm in the faith as a unified body despite the difficulties and hardships of this life, including the coronavirus pandemic, by putting the good news of the gospel first in every area of their lives, that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone.

I. Put the gospel first in your relationships – Philippians 1:1-8

- A. What observations do you make about Paul's personal feelings towards the Philippians?
- B. Paul clearly loves the church in Philippi, but why do you think he loves them so much?
- C. Why is Paul confident that these believers will continue to persevere in the faith (1:6)?
- D. What are some practical ways that you can grow in putting the gospel first in your relationships?

II. Put the gospel first in your prayers – Philippians 1:9-11

- A. How would you categorize Paul's prayers for these believers (1:9-11)?
- B. What do you think it means for their "love to abound more and more" (1:9)?
- C. If you were to evaluate your prayers, how often do you pray and for what do you typically pray?
- D. In what ways can you grow in putting others first in your prayers? How are Paul's categories of praying for growth in love, growth in knowledge, and growth in love helpful as you're praying for folks at Proclamation? How, in particular, would you like to grow in your prayer life?

III. Put the gospel first in your aspirations – Philippians 1:12-18

- A. How has Paul's imprisonment served to advance the gospel? List at least two ways.
- B. What does it mean to preach Christ from envy and rivalry? Who do you think is doing that?
- C. Paul is in prison and is being afflicted (v.17). Why then is he rejoicing (v.18)? And how?
- D. How can you grow in putting the gospel first in your life goals and aspirations? What are some practical things you can do to focus your joy in the Lord and not in other things?