



REIMAGINE

SERIES OVERVIEW

The Apostle Paul had a challenging relationship with most of the churches he started. With division, false teachers, and immorality plaguing these communities, his letters to them are filled with frustration and rebuke with how far they had gone astray... *with one exception*. His letter to the Church in Philippi reveals Paul's deep love and gratitude for this church community. Even as he suffers in prison, Paul's enthusiasm for the faithfulness of the Philippian believers is palpable. As he considers the very real possibility of his death behind bars in Ephesus, Paul shares with his Philippian brothers and sisters his hopes and dreams for them as their community carries on into the next generation.

In 2025, Grace Church is launching the Reimagine Initiative, raising funds and committing to our "ones" as a community in a new way. As we consider what investments God is calling this new generation at Grace to make, Paul's words of encouragement to the church in Philippi will be a significant reminder of what really matters. His heart for his Philippian family will remind us of the value of learning from those who have come before.

WEEK 1 - CONTINUING THE WORK OVERVIEW

Paul composed his letter to the Philippian church from prison. Based on his words in the letter, Paul is suffering mightily and wondering if his death is near. If it is true, as some scholars now believe, that Paul was in prison in *Ephesus* when he wrote this letter (not Rome), this also would have been a time of deep pain and emotional turmoil for him as churches like the one in Corinth had all but turned their back on him. And yet, the opening words of his letter are filled with joy. "Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God." It is obvious Paul's fond memories with and ongoing support from the Philippian Church were a balm to his soul during a very dark time. And thus, we see Paul's heartfelt desires on display as he encourages the church in Philippi to carry the torch forward in his absence.

The Reimagine Initiative is an exciting opportunity for Grace Church to build on the tremendous legacy of those who have come before. As we improve our building and invest in our relationship with the "ones" God has laid on our heart, let us pray, along with Paul, that our community can "overflow more and more" with the love of Christ (1:9), and that God will continue his work among us that began over 30 years ago.

I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Philippians 1:6

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When did Grace Church become your church home? Why did you choose Grace?
2. Read [Philippians 1:1-11](#) and [4:14-18](#).
 - a. Where is Paul at the time he writes this letter?
 - b. Describe the relationship Paul has with the Philippians.
 - c. What do you think are Paul's reasons for writing this letter to the Philippians?
3. What is a "one", and how do you decide who it should be?
4. How have you seen God work at or through Grace Church over the years that you have been here?
5. What comes to your mind when you think of "continuing the work" that began at Grace in 1991?