

*Staying Focused on the Main Thing*  
*Philippians 1:1-11*

The Philippian Christians were an exemplary group of believers for us because they were not \_\_\_\_\_ from their Christ-ordained mission. Paul’s main reason for writing was to thank them for their \_\_\_\_\_ to spread the gospel.

This text has 2 parts: Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ for the Philippians’ faithfulness to Paul and the gospel and his \_\_\_\_\_ for their steady growth in faithfulness. In his prayer, Paul identified the essential ingredient enabling them to produce fruit and bring glory to God. He prayed that they might “\_\_\_\_\_ the best things.” They avoided distractions and stayed focused on the mission and mandate of Christ. They kept the \_\_\_\_\_ thing the \_\_\_\_\_ thing.

Paul praised their “partnership in the gospel from the 1<sup>st</sup> day until now.” \_\_\_\_\_ years had passed since the Philippian church began. During that time, wherever Paul went to spread the gospel, those Philippian believers pooled their limited \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ resources to support the mission.

Paul described their undistracted faithfulness in **2 Cor. 8:2-4**. This passage identifies some of the main things that distract us. (1) Severe \_\_\_\_\_. We sense danger from the world around us and go into self-preservation mode. (2) Overflowing \_\_\_\_\_. We have much and spend our time and money just enjoying our blessings. (3) Extreme \_\_\_\_\_. The Philippians’ severe financial situation didn’t stop their support of the work, even giving \_\_\_\_\_ their ability.

They were undistracted because they were confident in this promise: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to \_\_\_\_\_ until the day of Christ Jesus.” If we could only realize just how valuable, how great, and how \_\_\_\_\_ our salvation in Jesus really is—\_\_\_\_\_ for our many sins, His \_\_\_\_\_ to guide us through the trials and brokenness of life, and His \_\_\_\_\_ into our ultimate, eternal home, we would let nothing distract us from pursuing the mission He has given us to fulfill. May we give our time, talents, and resources—our \_\_\_\_\_—for the sake of the gospel.