

1-Overflow...Make it About Others

INTRO

- **We all have a 100% chance of dying**
- And at your funeral, a question that in essence is asked and answered is this:
 - “What characterized your life?”
 - What was the soundtrack of your life so to speak? What made you, you?
- What will people say at your funeral?
 - Will they have to make stuff up? Because you made it about you?
 - Or will the words just flow out? And why? Because you made it about more than yourself!
 - You showed love, joy, peace, thanksgiving
 - You had this abundant way of living that flowed out of you and impacted others
 - Like a glass being filled with water to overflowing
- This is the **overflowing life**

The Overflowing Life

As you receive God’s blessing, you are being a blessing to others

- Do you feel depleted? Like you have nothing to give?
- Is your soul dried up like the AZ desert on a July afternoon?
- The notion of the overflowing life is for you. If you lean into this series-I guarantee it will affect your marriage, your parenting, your work. The overflowing life affects everything.
- So let’s ask ourselves this question today and for the upcoming weeks:

How Do I Have an Overflowing Life?

- To answer this, turn with me in your Bibles to Philippians 1. **seat in front of you page () take that Bible** We'll also have the verses on the screen for you. Philippians 1.

CHALLENGE

- During this six week series, I want to give you a challenge
 - Read this book once per week for the next six weeks
 - And see how it fills up your glass to overflowing
- So, if you want to take up this challenge, do this:

Text the word Overflow to (928) 634-8166

- Why do this? Because this book is amazing.
- You will not regret it
- As you're blessed through reading Philippians on your own, it will also drive home what we talk about here on Sundays
- It takes 14 minutes to read. 4 chapters, 104 verses, 2002 words.
- If you haven't created a habit, a routine, of reading through God's Word on a regular basis, now is the perfect time to do it
- If you haven't had a chance to do it, don't worry. It's also on the back of your sermon handout under the Group Notes. This will also be up on our FB and IG pages starting this afternoon.
- If you're ready to dive into God's Word with me, say I'm ready! All right, let's pray as we get ready to do just that. (pray)

(5 mins)

Background

- Let's kick things off by reading through verse 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.

- Who is Paul? Paul was a devout Jew who killed Christians. He encounters Jesus in Acts 9. And just like what happens when we encounter Jesus, his life got changed around. He

went from killing Christians to proclaiming Christ. Paul would go on to write 13 of the 27 books of the New Testament.

Paul is writing Philippians from house arrest in Rome, awaiting trial. Paul's under quarantine so to speak. So it's not a dark dungeon, but it's still not fun.

- Timothy is also with Paul
 - Timothy very well may have written down the words while Paul spoke them to him
 - Timothy is mentored by Paul. This is something baked into our culture here at VVCC. Get poured into and having others pour into you. Get involved in a Group and do community with others to get that process going.
 - Paul says in 2:2 that like a son with a father, Timothy has served with me
- Paul and Timothy are Servants
 - This is an important theme in Philippians
 - A servant is both a title of honor as Christians and a title of humility
 - We see in Philippians 2 that Christ came as a servant. And that we too are to serve.
 - This is why one of our values is Saved People Serve People.
- Philippians is written to the saints in Philippi
 - Who are the saints? Everyone!
 - In Christ, you are a saint. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.
 - So let's talk about Philippi



- Philippi was a city located in Macedonia, in north east part of modern day Greece.
- Strategically situated on the Via Egnatia, a very important Roman road.
- Was a Roman colony-enjoyed privileges compared to other cities in the region
- Paul had first been there in Acts 16. He ends up in prison with his travel companion Silas. They're singing songs at midnight. Which, by the way, how awesome is that? May we be praising God in the midst of the trials of life like this. So the prison doors open. Through this, they convert the Philippian jailer and his whole household!
- This is a book of friendship and thanksgiving.
- With the Overseers and Deacons
 - Overseers equivalent of elders, or pastors in the NT. Talked about in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.
 - Deacons see qualifications of in 1 Timothy 3 and may also be in Acts 7.
 - Why is it important that he includes overseers and deacons with the saints? Because his heartfelt thanks and loving correction are meant for the whole church family. We as leaders in the church are by no means above this nor have we graduated from this! May we model this.
 - So to recap:

- Author: Paul
- Recipients: Church of Philippi
- Date: Around 62 AD

- Written From: House Arrest in Rome
- Thank You Letter
- Main Themes: Joy, Unity, Christ's Example

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

- Grace and Peace
 - Grace: God's unmerited favor. A common Greek greeting
 - Peace: Rest with God and man. Shalom. A common Hebrew greeting
 - Paul combines these two greetings in his letters. Every word in Scripture matters, including these. This greeting itself is chalk full of significance. We have grace and peace with God. Gentile and Jew have one Messiah in Jesus. It's beautiful. (expound on this!) or simplify

5 mins (10)

**How Do I Live the Overflowing Life?
Make it About Others
How Do I Make it About Others?**

Thank God For Them (Phil. 1:3-8)

- See others as God sees them and thank God for them

3 I thank my God every time I remember you.

- Verses 3-6 is just one long sentence in the Greek. And it all flows from this first statement.
- Thankfulness is an attitude of gratitude. It's appreciation. It's recognizing God's goodness and provision.

4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

- What's the content of your prayers like for others? If you were given a transcript of your prayers about others (use sermon notes here), what would it say? Complaints? Thanksgiving?

5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now

- This is why Paul has thanksgiving and prays with joy! Because of partnership in the Gospel.
- What does partnership in the Gospel mean?
 - koinonia: it's fellowship, participation together, community. The same word used in Acts 2:42.
 - It's doing ministry together. Serving together. Being a part of each other's lives in a Group. It's deep and intimate.
- Paul's had this with the Philippians from the day they came to know Christ until now
- VVCC, I want to know, on behalf of our pastors and staff, we thank God with joy for you and our partnership with you!
 - Thank you for all you do!
 - Nursery
 - Working the snack counter
 - Youth ministry Thursday nights
 - Group Leaders
 - Serving in the community @ Manzanita, House of Ruth, or our other great ministries in the area
 - Representing Jesus where you live, work and play
 - Thank you for who you are!

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus

- Paul's thankfulness is also being fueled by this truth. God is going to finish what He started in their lives. The day of Christ Jesus is when He returns. God will finish what He started.
- Anyone here ever start something and never finish it? A project, a task, a hobby?

- I thought it'd be cool to try wood whittling a few years ago. And so Shea got me a wood whittling kit for my birthday and some gloves to go with it and these



tools.

- And I used that thing 1.5 times...
- You and I may give up on things... God doesn't give up on us
- He started a work in you and He's going to finish it
- ****hold up wood block**** He's the master carver, whittling away, shaping us, molding us, making us more and more like Him.
- He's NOT done with you! And this gives me such encouragement. B/c there are days and weeks and seasons where I go, man I'm a mess. And God says, I'm not done with you.
- You are His workmanship! I want you to hear this-you have value, and worth, and inherent dignity as one who is made in the image of God. You matter so much to Him!
- Maybe other people have walked away from you or given up on you. Your dad left you at a young age. Your friend betrayed you. Your co-workers ignore you. Your God will not do that! And he's helping you become more and more like Him one step at a time.
- Paul puts it this way in 2 Corinthians 3:18

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

-2 Cor. 3:18

- He's transforming you to be more and more like Him.
- And this isn't just you. It's everyone who knows Him!
- We read this and we make it all about self. The you is plural. It's not just you, it's all ya'll. All of us.
- This should impact how we see other people.
- **You are a work in progress. And so is everyone else.**
- I want to challenge you with something-when someone comes into this church, to our group, our serving team, and they're different than us or they annoy us. Let's remember this-*we often have no idea the battles that they are facing*. Just like you. **And God's working on them just like He's working on you.**
- Are you often annoyed with others?
- My question for you is this: are you in a Group, doing life together? Are you serving?
 - When we do this, it reorients how we view others in light of eternity. And it gives us gratitude for one another
 - It's like a camera lens. As you shift and move that lens into focus, you're able to see things more



clearly

- You're reminded that God's doing a work in you and in others. And he's not finished.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

- Paul says, look, my feelings are right and justified! Because we share together in God's grace. He is using such emphatic language. It's just pouring out of him. Overflowing.
- We share in God's grace. We are all drawing from the same deep well of grace together.
- How do we live an overflowing life? Make it About People
- How do we make it about people? Thank God for them
- How else do we make it about people?

10 mins (20)



GOLD



PYRITE or "FOOL'S GOLD"

PRAY FOR THEM

- Consistently and intentionally bring them and their needs before the throne

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

- What a great prayer for others! You want to pray for someone in your life? Pray for abounding love that's rooted in knowledge and insight. This love isn't fake, it's got substance and weight to it. It's the difference between pyrite or fools gold and real gold.
 - Has worth and value, it's bright, it doesn't tarnish over time
 - This is the love that Paul is praying for for others! This is the love that we want to show and have for others

10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ

- This is the desired outcome of that abounding love
 - Discerning what is best in order to be pure/blameless for the day of Christ
 - let's pray with substance and weight! Pray for life change!
 - Can I be honest with you? My prayers...
 - How are we pure and blameless? Only through Jesus

11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

- What are you filled with? What dwells in you?
 - When you go through hard times, what is in you comes out
 - When you squeeze an orange, orange juice comes out.
Nothing can come out of you that is not in you.
- Fruit of righteousness-it's that Gal 5 fruit of the Spirit
- And it's for His praise and glory. Not about us, it's about him.

- Prayer works. Prayer matters. Paul prayed because prayer works.



- It's like watering a garden. When you pray for others, it's like you're helping water their soul. You're nurturing them, you're helping them grow and to produce fruit. **Let's be diligent gardeners when it comes to our prayer life.** It makes a difference!
- So this week, pray for people. And even let them know you're praying for them and how you're praying for them.
- When people tell you they need prayer, pray for them right then and there
 - Has anyone said I'll pray for you and not done it? (raise my hand)
- All of this tunes us in like a radio dial into the station of God's Kingdom, His economy, His perspective. It's orienting us.
- So let's get super practical
 - When are you praying? Yes, pray without ceasing and have an attitude of prayer at all times, but when are you really dialing in?
 - Set a time. If you're taking notes, write down what that time is for you or what that time will be for you.
 - My Experience

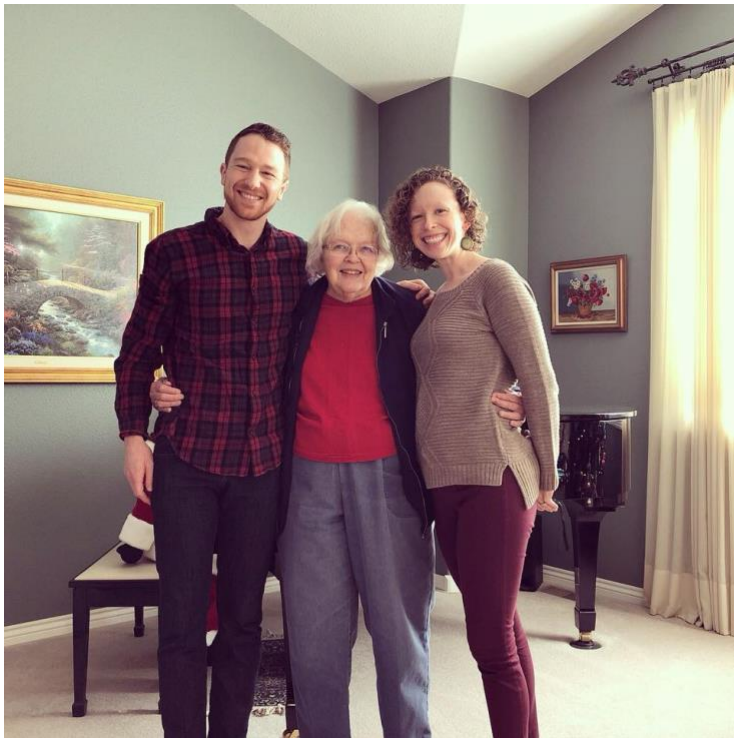
- When I was in middle school, there was a youth leader, Steve. And Steve got a group of students together and encouraged us to have these times in the Word and in prayer. He gave us these composition books. I duct taped mine bc well I thought that was cool. And we would read, write our observations down and then we would pray.
- And so my alarm would go off and I would spend five minutes with God.
- Can I tell you something? I've gotten degrees in bible and theology. But what has hands down impacted my life the most are those times with God.
- You want to be a better spouse, parent to your kids, friend. You want to grow with Jesus? This is hands down the biggest decision that you will make.
 - I heard this quote-"the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." Start today.
- How do we make it about others?
 - Thank God for them
 - Pray for them

5 minutes (25)

CONCLUSION

- I'm going to close with this. On April 2nd this year, Shea and I were in Sedona with her sister, Kaley and Kaley's husband, Matthew. We had just gotten dinner at Wildflower. We love Wildflower. And I get a call from my parents. One of those calls you don't want to get.
- My grandma had a stroke and she's probably not going to make it through the night
- My grandma. My grandma who I made countless gingerbread cookies with. Did puzzles with. Made school projects with. Took trips to the zoo. My grandma.

- They're with her in the hospital-she can't talk but she can hear- and they're going to hold the phone to her ear so I can talk to her one last time.
- What do you say to someone you've known your whole life and you know it's the last time you'll ever talk with them this side of eternity?
 - Here's what I said:
 - You brought me closer to Jesus
 - Your love and joy for Him is contagious
 - Thank You
- Grandma Leota lived the overflowing life (show picture)



- Her life was characterized by thankfulness and prayer. She was a constant encourager.
- She was so on fire for Jesus
- And at her funeral, it will be said that she lived an overflowing life
- What will be said at your funeral?
- This week..
 - May you make it about others
 - May you thank God for them

- May you pray for them
 - May you live the overflowing life
- Would you pray with me?

Talk It Over

Overflow
Make it About Others
Philippians 1:1-11

SMALL TALK

1. Share a time when you experienced the joy of making it about someone else.

VIEWPOINT

2. **Read Philippians 1:1-11.** What passage(s) stood out to you the most from this? Anything that surprised you?
3. **Read Acts 2:42-47.** How do we see koinonia (fellowship) take place in this passage? How as a Group can you live out koinonia?
4. **Read Galatians 5:13-26.** Using this passage, what are some things that characterize the fruit of righteousness in Philippians 1:9? What else from Scripture can you think of that characterizes the fruit of righteousness? (Some other examples are Ephesians 5:9 and James 5:19). Where does this fruit come from?

GETTING PERSONAL

5. What do you want people to say at your funeral?

MAKING PROGRESS (THIS WEEK)

6. Commit to reading through Philippians once per week! Text the word, **Overflow**, to (928) 634-8166 and we'll send you weekly encouragement