



# **'Back to Basics for Believers Series'**

## **Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians**



### **Message 5 - The Marks of a Healthy Christian Cause**

#### **Philippians 1: 27 - 30**

The conclusion of this first chapter of this letter saw Paul challenge the church at Philippi to maintain a 'healthy Christian Cause'. It became clear that the marks of a 'healthy Christian Cause' were as follows:

- 1. A Healthy Christian Cause will bear the Mark of True Christian Conduct** – He was urging the believers to walk in a manner that would reflect the grace of God which they had been recipients. This would mean walking in integrity, and conduct that is worthy of the gospel, is certainly conduct that promotes the gospel. The challenge was that as a church we 'behave what we believe'.
- 2. A Healthy Christian Cause will bear the Mark of the True Gospel of Grace** – Paul when speaking of the Gospel puts forward the Gospel of grace. How we need to be a church that preaches Christ, Him crucified and risen, redemption accomplished, and by the Spirit applied. We need to call men to repent, that they might experience the grace and mercy of God, exhorting them to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for sins, and now offers men the invitation of knowing Him. As a matter of great importance, do you know Him?
- 3. A Healthy Christian Cause will bear the Mark of a Steadfast Stance** – Paul urged the believers at Philippi to stand together in one spirit and with one mind. As will be seen this evening, Paul's great concern is that unity is ever present in the church. The lesson is there for us, there are many who would seek to destabilise and cause disunity in the church, yet, friends, in hard and difficult days we must stand together.
- 4. A Healthy Christian Cause will bear the Marks of Courage and Fearlessness** – Paul tells the Philippian church that as they suffer, they suffer not in vain, but rather they are experiencing what is a gift of grace, and through it can come great power and blessing should it be placed under the hand of God. Paul urges them to be courageous, as this opposition confirms their own salvation, the judgement of those who persecute, a great privilege bestowed on them as they follow the Lord Jesus Christ, and that Paul shares their suffering with them. As we look to maintain a godly witness, we must remember that great cloud of witnesses that has gone before, and our Saviour ready to receive His faithful servants.



## **Penzance Baptist Church**

**'Upholding the Ordinary Means of Grace'**

**Pastor Jonathan Stobbs**