

Summit Woods Baptist Church  
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class  
Philippians 1:3-11

**NOTE: Due to the holiday, your homework is shorter for this week. If you have friends and family visiting this week, please bring them to Equipping Class with you!**

As we celebrate Thanksgiving this week, we will look at Paul's thankfulness to God for the Philippian church.

By all accounts, the church in Philippi was a healthy congregation (not perfect, but healthy). Unlike his letter to the Corinthians which is full of correction, Paul's words to the Philippians are encouragement for them to continue in faithful gospel-centered living and reminder to be always on guard against the selfish heart attitudes that are potentially around every corner and will undermine the gospel unity of the church. Paul wrote this letter to them from prison about 10 years after planting the church there.

❖ Read Philippians 1:3-11.

Notes from the Greek:

5: 'partnership' = Gk *koinonia*; fellowship and close relationship

6: 'am sure' = Gk *pepoithos*; being persuaded, convinced

7: 'feel' = Gk *phronein*; think, judge, hold an opinion; this is more than an undefined feeling but is a reasoned judgement

10: 'pure' = Gk *eilikrineis*; being honest and straightforward in attitude, speech, and motivation (the absence of affectation or pretense)

11: 'that comes' verb supplied for translation, not in the original Gk

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

<sup>4</sup>always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,

<sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

<sup>6</sup>And I am sure of this,

that he who began a good work in you

will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about you all,

because I hold you in my heart,

for you are all partakers with me of grace,

both in my imprisonment

and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

<sup>8</sup>For God is my witness,

how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup>And it is my prayer

that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,

<sup>10</sup>so that you may approve what is excellent,

and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

<sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness [that comes] through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

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1. What is Paul's initial response when he thinks of the church in Philippi? (see verse 3)
2. What emotion does thinking of the Philippians produce in Paul? (see verse 4)
3. What is it about the Philippians that inspires Paul's thankfulness and joy? (see verse 5)
4. To whom does Paul give credit for the Philippians' faithful gospel service? (see verse 6)
5. What was the "good work" that God had begun and would complete in the Philippians?
6. In the first century, it was customary to begin a letter by expressing thanks. What in Paul's language in these verses shows that his expression of thanks is more than mere formality?
7. In verse 9, Paul says that he wants their love to "abound more and more." What does he say should accompany their love?
8. What does this combination empower them to do? (see verse 10)
9. Fill in blanks below to describe what is passed from whom, through whom, and to whom, according to verse 11. (Hint: Use these words: God, Jesus, us)

Fruit of righteousness: from \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Glory and praise: from \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

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10. In what ways does our church partner together in the gospel, both inside and outside our congregation?

a. What are some other ways that our church could partner with others in gospel work?

11. What are ways that you personally partner with others in the gospel?

a. Are there other ways in which you could be partnering in gospel work?

12. Have you experienced your love for someone being strengthened specifically by partnering in gospel work together? Explain.

In preparation for Sunday, thank God for your past and present gospel partners. Pray for our congregation, that our love for each other will grow deeper as a result of our gospel work together, to the glory and praise of God.