

I'M GLAD YOU EXIST

Thanksgiving 2020, #3: Philippians 1:3-11

November 22, 2020

*I thank my God every time I remember you.
In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy
because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now
Philippians 1:3-5*

The history of Paul and the Philippians

¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

Acts 16

1) Paul's story begins with listening to a variety of ways the Spirit leads (Acts 16:6-10)

2) Paul is thankful for _____

Thanks because . . . thanks being confident that

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 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.

Philippians 1:3-6

1) Thankful because we "share" _____

2) Thankful because Jesus _____

3) This time the _____ is added!

How to be glad for each other

1) Recognize (and make it public!) that we _____

²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" ²² On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³ and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, ²⁵ so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. ²⁶ If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. ²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:21-27

1) Not being thankful, ultimately hurts _____

2) Being thankful honors the _____

2) Focus on the _____ (it's hard not to give thanks!)

² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow [or Syzygus, a name], help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4

1) The gospel should be valuable enough to _____

2) Rejoicing, gentleness and thanksgiving are on the path to _____

3) Imagine how God is at work

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Philippians 1:4-6

1) Begin now because I will eventually _____

2) Even the unconverted will _____

Resources for further studies of Thanksgiving

Two wonderful Spurgeon sermons Philippians 1 are at the monergism.com site:

<https://www.monergism.com/topics/sermon-manuscripts-mp3s-scripture/philippians/chapter-philippians/chapter-01>

Bob Deffinbaugh has three sermons on this introduction to Philippians at <https://bible.org/series/live-christ-study-book-philippians>

Gordon Fee has a wonderful discussion of thanksgiving in his Philippians commentary available at:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/IVP-NT/Phil/Prayer-Thanksgiving>

Randy Alcorn has a great little article on enjoying God's good gifts at

<https://www.epm.org/blog/2020/Nov/9/time-efforts-hobbies>

Nicholas Batzig's blog on giving thanks like Jesus at https://feedingonchrist.org/thankfulness-jesus/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=thankfulness-jesus

Kevin de Young has a series of Thanksgiving blogs, including these:

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/stuffed-full-with-thankfulness/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevin-deyoung/gratitude-to-gods-glory/>