

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS – LESSON 2
PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 23-27

Paul's joyful prayer and expression of affection for the Philippians

True joy is an unwavering constant in a Spirit filled life, not a transient emotional feeling that comes and goes depending on circumstances. MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Philippians, J. MacArthur, p. 18

The book of Philippians reveals the depth of authentic Christian fellowship between believers. These first 11 verses are filled with Paul's expression of joy as he remembers and prays for his brothers and sisters in Philippi. He expresses his deep affection for these believers and prays for their growth in godliness and maturity. In spite of the difficulties Paul was experiencing, he exhibited his love, care, concern, and commitment to the Philippian believers. This brotherly love, commitment and devotion to pray for growth of one another should mark our relationships with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Read **Phil. 1:1-6** and answer the following questions:

1. How did Paul refer to Timothy and himself? How did he refer to the Philippian believers?

2. What was it about the Philippians that generated great joy as Paul remembered and prayed for his brothers and sisters in Philippi?

3. What did Paul mean when he referred to "participation in the gospel" in **verse 5**?
(participation can also be translated "communion" "partnership" or "fellowship" – sharing something in common)

4. What does **verse 6** tell you about God's work in your life?

All those who are truly born in the spirit and united to Christ by faith are kept secure in him by God's power and thus will **persevere** in faith until they go to be with Christ in death.

This doctrine is often labeled the perseverance of the saints. Biblical Doctrine, MacArthur and Mayhew, page 644. (see Rom. 8:29-30)

5. The day of Christ Jesus (**vs. 6**) or also day of Christ (**vs. 10**) is not the same as the Day of the Lord which refers to God's divine judgment and wrath against unrepentant sinners. The day of Christ Jesus "refers to the time when believers will be glorified, when their salvation will be completed and made perfect." MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Philippians, J. MacArthur, p. 28

Read the following passages to describe the completion of the transformation of believers at the Day of Christ:

- **Gal 4:19**
 - **Col 3:4**
 - **Rom. 8:29-30**
 - **I John 3:2**
 - **I Corinthians 1:8**
6. Paul was filled with joyful anticipation of God's completion of His work in the lives of believers. How does the truth and promise of **verse 6** encourage you and provide great joy?
7. How does Paul express his affection for his fellow believers in **verses 7 and 8**?
8. Summarize the content of Paul's prayer for the Philippian saints in **verses 9 through 11**.
9. Biblical love is not based on empty sentimentalism, emotion or physical attraction. What is the significance of Paul's request in vs. 9 that "your love may abound more and more in real knowledge and all discernment"? From the following verses, what is the source of knowledge to which Paul refers? **Prov. 2:6, Prov. 1:7, I Peter 1:22, Eph 4:11-13**
10. From **vs. 10-11**, Paul prays for tangible results in the lives of the Philippians flowing from their growth in love, knowledge and discernment. List the phrases that describe the fruit or results for which Paul prays and explain each of them. (*for bonus points find verses that explain or refer to them*)
11. For whom are you consistently praying (or beginning to consistently pray) just as Paul prayed for these beloved Philippian saints? How can you express to your brothers and sisters in Christ your devotion and commitment to pray for their spiritual growth?