

The Heart of an Undershepherd

Philippians 1:3-11

b. Which leads to the glory and **praise** of God - Jn 15:8

Introduction

I Paul's Heart of Thanksgiving

- A. His memory of the church prompted **thanksgiving**
 - 1 Thess 5:18
- B. His memory of the church prompted prayer: - Rom 1:9-10; Eph 1:15; 1 Thess 1:2; 2 Tim 1:3; Philem 4
 - 1. He prayed with **joy** - Phil 4:1
 - 2. He acknowledged their **partnership** in the gospel:
 - a. "From the 1st day until now" - Act 16:13-14; Ph 4:18
- C. His memory of the church prompted **confidence**:
 - 1. God **began** a good work in them - Phil 1:29-30; 2:12-13
 - 2. God would carry that work on to **completion** - Heb 12:1-2
 - a. Until the day of Christ Jesus - 2 Cor 5:9-10

II Paul's Heart of Affection

- A. He had reason to be thankful, joyful and confident:
 - 1. He had them in his **heart** - 1 Thess 2:8; 1 Jn 3:14-16
- B. He acknowledged their partnership in God's **grace**
 - 1. Whether he was in chains - 2 Tim 1:8
 - 2. Whether he was:
 - a. Defending the gospel - Phil 1:16
 - b. Confirming the gospel - Heb 6:16; Prov 17:17
- C. He longed for them all with the **affection** of C.J. - Col 3:12

III Paul's Heart of Intercession

- A. He prayed that their love might: - Eph 6:18
 - 1. Abound in **knowledge** - Col 1:9-13
 - 2. Abound in depth of **insight** - Lk 15:11-32; 1 Cor 5:1-5
- B. He prayed that they might:
 - 1. Be able to discern what is **best** - Rom 12:2
 - 2. Be **pure** - 1 Pt 1:6-7
 - 3. Be blameless - Lk 17:1-3; Acts 24:16;
 - 4. Be filled with the **fruit** of righteousness - Prov 11:30
 - a. Which comes through Jesus Christ - Jn 15:4-5

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Who is most encouraging person in your life right now?
2. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your joy level? What would it take to get that number higher? Does your criteria square with Paul's modeling of joy while on "Death Row"?
3. What does Paul's prayer reveal about his priorities, his leadership style and his relationship to the Philippians? How would you feel if someone wrote a letter like this to you?
4. List the qualities that Paul commended and prayed for in the believers at Philippi. Do these characteristics mark your life? Why or why not? Pick one that is most needed in your life and ask the Holy Spirit to help you grow in this area.
5. Considering Paul's past, how do you account for his heart of open & transparent affection and love for others? On a scale of 1-10, how loving are you toward others (family, friends, etc)?
6. Who are the people in your life that God has entrusted to you to "undershepherd"? What practical/measurable things will you do this week to encourage them in their walk with the Lord?
7. Take a few moments to pray verse-by-verse through Phil 1:9-11. Pray it for yourself first and then for others in your life.
8. Finally, take some time to remember and "recite" the blessings in your life by thanking God for the people/events/trials that he has allowed to intersect with your life.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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