



Philippians 1:3-7 “Jesus: Author & Finisher”

Major players living there in Philippi

- Lydia – seller of purple
- Demonized fortune-telling girl
- Roman Jail Keeper & family
 - A new church meeting in the Jailer's house (perhaps)
- Epaphroditus
- Euodia
- Syntyche
- Clement

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all **with joy.**

- V3: Here the body of Paul's letter begins
 - Much joy in writing
 - Much encouragement in thanksgiving
 - Much hope in continued fellowship
- **Hughes:** “As Paul mused in his Roman cell, his mind ranged across Italy and the Adriatic to Macedonia and over the Via Egnatia to “little Rome,” the pretentious Roman colony of Philippi—and the beloved faces of Lydia and her clan, the jailer and his family, Euodia and Syntyche and Clement and scores of others who had been added to the church. And Paul smiled as he wrote, “I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy” (vv. 3, 4).”¹

- **J Vernon McGee** - **Every time anybody would mention Philippi, Paul would just thank God for the believers there.** That is something really quite wonderful....If Paul hadn't said anything else about his relationship to this church, this would have been enough to reveal how special it was. You can check the other epistles—he didn't say this to the other churches, certainly not about the Galatians or the Corinthians.
- **Spurgeon** - **All Paul's memories of Philippi excited gratitude in his mind.** He could not have said of the Galatians, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” Oh, no! He said, “O foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you?” There were persons of whom he said, “I thank God that I baptized none of you.” He was pleased that believers should be baptized, but he was glad that he had not baptized certain persons who would have made capital out of it, and boasted that they were baptized by the hands of Paul. It was not so with the Philippians. Paul thought of them with devout gratitude to his God that there were such people, and that he had come into personal contact with them. He knew the ins and outs of them, and yet he could thank his God whenever he thought of them.

JOY

- 12X in Philippians – thus, the **Epistle of joy**
1 Thessalonians 5:16–18
16 Rejoice always,
17 pray without ceasing,
18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
- Their “joy” was used by Paul to exhort other churches:
 - Joy in giving, even in their poverty!
 - Joy in the Gospel
 - Joy in the Holy Spirit
2 Corinthians 8:1–5
1 Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on **the churches of Macedonia:**
2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of **their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.**

- 3** For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,
- 4** imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.
- 5** And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.

Wiersbe - Paul uses three thoughts in **1:1-11** that describe true Christian fellowship:

1. I have you in my mind (Phil 1:3-6),
2. I have you in my heart (Phil 1:7-8),
3. I have you in my prayers (Phil 1:9- 11).

5 (I thank my God) for your **fellowship in the gospel** from the first day until now,

- **“Fellowship”** - Greek: “koinonia”
 - **Definition:** partnership, i.e. (lit.) participation, or social intercourse, or (pecuniary) benefaction
 - like shared vision for ministry – really only possible through interaction in fellowship
 - one mind, one spirit = great power in Christ
 - **“in the Gospel”**
 - Keeping the Gospel the central point had kept this small fellowship healthy and strong.
 - Moving from the Gospel is moving away from God.

- **Lehman Strauss:** “Approximately ten years had passed since that fellowship began, and “from the first day until now” it had continued.

Now what was the secret of this continuing fellowship?

Thanksgiving (vs. 3) and prayer (vs. 4).

Not the one without the other, but both together.

6 being confident of this very thing,

that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Greek “since I am sure of this very thing.”

Paul was confident of 2 things:

1. God has begun a good work in each of us that are saved
2. God will continue that good work until Jesus comes for us.

Paul's confidence was not in the Philippians

- Confidence in what the Lord would do
Philippians 2:13 **for it is God** who works in you both
> to will
> and to do
for His good pleasure.

The Lord is hard at work perfecting us into the image of JESUS CHRIST.

Romans 8:28-29 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

29 For whom He foreknew,

He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Psalms 138:8 **The LORD will perfect that which concerns me;**

Your mercy, O LORD, endures forever;
Do not forsake the works of Your hands.

1 Cor 1:8 who will also **confirm you to the end,** that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 5:10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, **perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.**

2 Tim 2:20-21 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. **21** Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a **vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.**

*There's A Reason!
For every pain that we must bear,
For every burden, every care,
There is A Reason!
For every grief that bows the head
For every tear drop that is shed
There Is a Reason!
For every hurt, for every plight,
For every lonely, pain-racked night,
There is a Reason!
Let us trust in God, as we should,
What He does is for our good.
He Knows The Reason!*

7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all,
because I have you in my heart,
inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the
gospel,
you all are partakers with me of grace.

- Paul truly loved this church, and truly loved the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- Gospel mentioned 9 times in this letter
 1. "the participation of the Gospel" - 1:5
 2. "confirmation of the Gospel" - 1:7
 3. "furtherance of the Gospel" - 1:12
 4. "defense of the Gospel" - 1:17
 5. "worthy of the Gospel" - 1:27
 6. "striving together for the faith of the Gospel" - 1:27
 7. "serve with me in the Gospel" - 2:22
 8. "labor with me in the Gospel" - 4:3
 9. "beginning of the Gospel" - 4:15
- **How important is the Gospel to you?**