



Philippians 1:3-11

September 20, 2020

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

Begin with prayer. “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Psalm 119:18).

Watch the Bible Project video "How to Read Philippians" (9:14): rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/226896 or "Overview: Philippians" on youtu.be/oE9qqW1-BkU

Read Philippians 1:3–11.

Joy in Partnership

[Q] What words or phrases bring out the warmth of Paul's feelings for his readers?

[Q] How is the Philippian church in partnership with Paul? How long have they been partnering with him?

Partnership is the Greek word *koinonia*, which means close fellowship.

The **Gospel** is the good news that Jesus Christ lived, died, was resurrected, and ascended so that we can be reconciled to God and enjoy Him forever.

[Q] What does it mean to be in “partnership in the gospel”? What do the following verses add to this meaning?
Romans 10:12-15

1 Peter 2:9

Confidence in God

[Q] Read Philippians 1:6. What is Paul confident about and how can he be so confident? (See verse 5.)

[Q] According to Ephesians 2:4-6, what is the “good work” that God began?

[Q] According to 1 John 3:2-3, what does it mean for that “good work” to be completed?

[Q] If someone said, "If God will finish this work He started, why do I need to do anything?" What would you say to them?

[Q] How might you encourage a Christian friend who is going through a tough time and doesn't feel confident that God loves them or is in control of what is happening to them?

"If you are a Christian today, it is because God has done a work in your heart. And if He has started that work in you, you can be absolutely 100% sure that He will finish it."

Tim Thornburg - *Explore Devotional - Philippians*

*Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely,
and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless
at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

²⁴ *He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.* 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Prayer with Joy

[Q] Read Philippians 1:9-11. Paul's affection and thankfulness for the Philippians naturally lead him to prayer. What kinds of things does Paul pray for? Can you spot at least four things that He wants to see developed in his friends?

[Q] What is Paul praying will be the outcome of all this growth (v. 11)?

Apply

[Q] Discerning love (v.9) is driven by our understanding of God and His mission in the world. It means that Christians will *give* differently—being concerned for spiritual hunger as well as physical hunger. Christians will *comfort* differently—not just tea and sympathy but encouraging people to see the eternal perspective to their problems. As you pursue God's mission this week, can you think of another practical illustration of this principle?

Pray

Follow Paul's example by praying his prayer (v. 9-11) for our church, your friends, neighbors, family. And pray the same things for yourself.