

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: September 13, 2020

Summer Quarter: Rejoice! The Book of Philippians

Title: "God's Workforce" (Philippians 1:1-11)

INTRODUCTION / REVIEW:

- Paul's Second Missionary Journey (A.D. 49-52)
- Epistle written during Roman "imprisonment" (A.D. 60, 61)
- The Message of Philippians:
 - 1) **JOY** and **REJOICING** permeate the book of Philippians. These words are found sixteen times in Philippians!
 - 2) Paul's prison epistles are noted for their **CHRISTOLOGY**. Christ Himself is the central and unifying theme (38 times).

PAUL'S GREETING (1:1, 2)

1. The Senders (vs. 1a)

"Paul and Timothy" - The inclusion of Timothy is significant.

- He had been actively involved in the ministry at Philippi.
- Paul was planning to send him to Philippi shortly (see 2:19-24).

"Servants of Christ Jesus" - Greek: **δοῦλος** *doúlos*

- he is inalienably _____ by God
- he is unqualifiedly at the _____ of God
- he owes an unquestioning _____ to God
- he must be constantly in the _____ of God

2. The Recipients (vs. 1b)

A. The Christian's title: "to all the saints"

B. The Christian's Lord: "in Christ Jesus"

C. The Christian's setting: "at Philippi"

D. Leaders alongside: "the overseers & deacons" (cp. 1 Tim. 3)

3. The Greeting (vs. 2): "Grace and Peace"

PAUL'S EXPRESSIONS (1:3-8)

1. Paul's _____ to God (vvs. 3-5)
Specifically, their "partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
"Partnership in the gospel" involves . . .
1) _____; 2) _____; 3) _____
2. Paul's _____ in God's work (vs. 6)
Salvation includes a threefold work of God . . .
 - The work God does _____ us: **salvation**
 - The work God does _____ us: **sanctification**
 - The work God does _____ us: **service**
3. Paul's _____ for the Philippians (vvs. 7, 8)

PAUL'S PRAYER (1:9-11)

1. **Abounding Love**
Uppermost on Paul's heart is a desire to see the Philippians' love grow. Like a river, however, their love needs banks to keep it within its proper boundaries. Otherwise they might pour out their love on the wrong things (cp. 1 Jn. 2:15-17). To guide their love, Paul prays for two things: knowledge and depth of insight (understanding). Those are the banks. Full & complete knowledge on one side and a depth of insight on the others.
2. **Keen Discernment**
Without discernment, love blindly donates to whatever cause comes to the door. With it, love learns to spot the phony, the wrong, the evil and, as Paul says, "be able to discern what is best." Some translate "approve what is best." The term trans. approve or discern means "to sift or test a certain thing and thus to recognize its worth and put their stamp of approval upon it."
3. **Christian fruit**
The kind of fruit that is produced when we are in fellowship with Christ (see Jn 15:4). Too many Christians try to "produce results" in their own efforts instead of abiding in Christ & allowing His life to produce the fruit. What is the fruit God wants to see from our lives?
 - A. He wants the "fruit of the _____" (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - B. He exhorts us to be "fruitful in every good work" (Col. 1:10)
 - C. Praise is the "fruit of the lips" (Heb. 13:15)