

# Home Group Helps

## Philippians 1:3-11

### *Joy for the Journey: Christian Fellowship*

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**I. Paul's Appreciation (v.3-6)** – <sup>3</sup> I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup> And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

**II. Paul's Affection (v.7-8)** – <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

**III. Paul's Appeal (v.9-11)** – <sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

#### **Four Answers Paul Hopes to See from His Prayers:**

- 1. Abounding Love** – your love may abound more and more
- 2. Approving Excellence** – so that you may approve what is excellent
- 3. Anticipating the Day of Christ's Return** – and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
- 4. Ascribing Glory to God** – to the glory and praise of God

#### **1. Launching Question(s):**

- Everyone seeks community. How would you describe your ideal community?

#### **2. Observation Question(s):**

- Notice the profound level of affection that Paul has toward other believers.
- What do you think keeps Paul from falling into the common trap of becoming negative and cynical towards others?
- How might you increase your love toward other Christians?

### **3. Interpretation Question(s):**

- Note the four answers to prayer that Paul hopes to see in v.9-11 (noted in the sermon outline).
- What are some common elements of this prayer?
- What are some things for which Paul does not pray?
- How does anticipating the return of Christ motivate us?

### **4. Reflection Question(s):**

- Kent Hughes reminds us, “Human friendship is a wonderful thing, but fellowship goes beyond friendship. Fellowship occurs among friends committed to a common cause or goal and flourishes through their common pursuit of it.”
- What can our church do to ensure that we are staying in true fellowship with one another?
- What can you do personally to ensure fellowship?

### **5. Application Question(s):**

- How can you invite others into your church community this week?

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