

## **Philippians 1:1-11 – The Mind of Christ Toward Brethren**

### **Themes of Philippians**

1. Joy
  - a) The word “joy” appears 16 times in the book.
  - b) Joy is a fruit of the Spirit that is available regardless of our circumstances, as opposed to happiness, which is an emotion that depends on the environment.
2. The Mind of Christ
  - a) Contains examples of the mind of Christ illustrated in the lives of Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus, as well as Christ himself – 2:5-11
  - b) Paul’s great desire was to know fellowship with Christ’s sufferings – 3:10
3. Fellowship
  - a) Fellowship with the Philippians – 1:5
  - b) Fellowship of the Spirit – 2:1
  - c) Fellowship in Christ’s sufferings – 3:10

In thinking about the first 11 verses of Philippians, remember that Paul has the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), the same mind that we are to have (2:5). These verses reveal the attitude toward brethren which the mind of Christ produced in Paul. Think about how having the mind of Christ can improve our own attitudes.

### *Philippians 1:1-11*

- 1) What past associations did Paul and Timothy have with Philippi? What associations did they expect to have in the future?
  
- 2) How does Paul’s opening in verses 1-2 compare to the openings of some of his other letters? What could account for the differences?
  
- 3) What are some things that stood out in Paul’s memory of the Philippian brethren? What feelings and emotions did Paul express at the thought of the Philippians? How do verses 3-8 compare with 1 Cor. 1:4-9?

4) What does the word fellowship in verse 5 mean? What can we learn from Paul's example of fellowship with the Philippian brethren?

5) What did Paul pray the Philippians' love might abound in? What could be the result if love abounded without these qualities?

6) What traits that Paul prayed would abound for the Philippians are particularly at risk for us today? How can we combat those risks?

7) What is the purpose of "the fruits of righteousness" in our lives?

8) How do our prayers for congregations at a distance compare to Paul's? Why might they be different?