

## THANKFUL, PRAYERFUL, JOYFUL

Philippians, #2

January 13–14, 2024 // Sermon Study Guide // Pastor Nate Miller

**Text:** Philippians 1:1–11

**Truth Points:** What truth was covered this weekend in the message?

1. Read Philippians 1:1–2. What two titles does Paul use for himself and then for the church? What is significant about these two? How are they true of every believer? How would life look different if every person realized these two truths?
2. Read Philippians 1:3–5. Paul begins with a prayer for the Philippian Church. It's clearly a joyful prayer. Why is joyful prayer difficult for some believers? What routines and habits rob us of joyful prayer?
3. Paul is thankful, prayerful, and joyful. What has made Paul thankful for the church? What would this kind of thankfulness look like in our church today?
4. Notice the word “partnership” in verse 5. This is the same Greek word used for fellowship. What makes Christian fellowship unique? How is this kind of fellowship distinct from the world's kind of camaraderie? How can this change a marriage, a family, or a church?
5. Read Philippians 1:6. Who began a “good work” in the Philippians? Why is Paul so confident that it will be completed? When will this good work be completed? How does this give us confidence as followers of Jesus who are still living in a sinful world?
6. Read Philippians 1:7–9. What affectionate words stand out to you? What does this show us about Paul's feeling for this church? Notice “partakers” which is that same Greek root-word for fellowship. What is Paul emphasizing by using it again?

7. Read Philippians 1:10–11. What is Paul’s hope for the church? What day is he looking forward to? How can this kind of mindset help us as believer endure through the twists and turns of life?

**Reflection Points:** How does God want me to think, feel, act, and speak because of this truth?

1. Do I have JOY in my prayer life? What does my prayer time with the Lord normally look like? For whom do I pray? How can I cultivate an attitude of JOY in my prayers based on what Paul has written here?
2. Do I have a genuine affection for the Church (the people of God)? What reasons do I have for this kind of affection? What makes my fellowship with the Church unique from any other group of people? How can I make that kind of fellowship a priority in my life?
3. Am I confident that God will finish His saving work in my life? Do I look forward to the day of Christ with joyful anticipation? Do I have assurance that my salvation depends on God and not on my own work? What passages of Scripture can help me see this? Who can I talk with about this?

**Action Points:** What am I going to do this week because of this truth?

1. **Memorize:** 1 Peter 2:9.
2. **See the Promises.** Read Romans 8 and underline every time Paul makes a future-oriented promise for believers. How can these promises give you confidence as you seek Jesus?
3. **Share the Story:** Share with a friend what you’re learning about Jesus in 2024.