



Sermon Growth Guide

November 1, 2020

Give Thanks – For Grace

Philippians 1:1-11

Key Verse: Philippians 1:3

“I thank my God every time I remember you.”

Big Idea: God gives us gifts; it is right to thank God.

Foundations

This week we move from our fall series on *The Beautiful Story* to our November series on *Giving Thanks*, a series walking us through the letter to the church in Philippi.

Philippians is sometimes called “The Joy Letter.” The word “joy” appears five times, and the verb “to rejoice” shows up nine times. Joy is the prevailing atmosphere of Philippians. But Philippians, the Joy Letter, was written by Paul while he sat in prison.

Paul wrote this letter in 61 A.D. on house arrest awaiting trial. What did Paul have to be joyful about? Well, in verse 7 of this week’s passage Paul rejoices that he is a partaker in the very salvation-bringing grace of God. Thank you, God!

Even in times of challenge and disappointment (in fact, especially in times of challenge and disappointment) it is critical for the Christian to find the root of gratitude. What do you have to give thanks for today? Could you make a small list?

Philippians 1:1-11 is a theological full course dinner. Open and close your time of further study and application in prayer. Ask the Spirit of God to guide and guard your time in His Word, granting you clear vision of why Paul’s heart was fixed on gratitude while his hands were fixed in chains. God gives us gifts; it is right to thank God.

Understanding God’s Word

What do we learn in verses 3–8? Why does Paul pray with joy? What does it mean to long for a brother or sister in Christ with “the affection of Christ Jesus”?

Read verses 9–11 carefully. What is Paul’s prayer? What is the “so that” beginning in verse 10? What ought the believer be filled with in verse 11?

Applying God’s Word

Spend five minutes recalling what you are grateful for. Celebrate the gratitude of those in your group.

Pray verses 9–11 out loud as a prayer for one another in your group. What action step can you take this week to partner with God in being “filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ”?

Witnessing God’s Word

Paul opens his letter with the greeting, “grace and peace.” What a privilege we have to walk as God’s representatives of His grace and peace. How can you extend the grace and peace of heaven to someone this week who doesn’t yet grasp the grace and peace of God?

Pray that each of you be filled with God’s Spirit this week to extend His grace and peace to the yet-believing world right around you.