

(1) Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

(3) I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 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!

(7) 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. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

(9) And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment --- so that you may approve what is excellent --- and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Think on these things:

- 1) Let's begin with a quick review of Philippi from the missionary journeys. Scan Acts 16:12-15 and 23-34. What do we know about Philippi, and name two characters whose stories are prominent in New Testament history?

Philippi – **A Roman colony, and a leading city of Macedonia**

Two characters – **The Philippian Jailer, and Lydia the merchant/businesswoman (seller of purple cloth).**

- 2) When you read about elder/overseer in the Bible (e.g. Titus 1:5-9), what position would that be in the modern-day church? What is the function of a deacon (Acts 6:1-4)? If you have time, look at 1 Timothy 3:1-15 for qualifications to choose these people in a local church.

Overseer = **Pastor (Corps Officer), who gives instruction in sound doctrine.**

1 Timothy Qualifications = Above reproach (no valid accusation of wrongdoing), monogamous (one wife), temperate (not easily riled or emotionally-driven), self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, gentle, not a drunkard or violent, not quarrelsome or a lover of money, and who demonstrates home management well with obedient, submissive children. He CANNOT be a new convert, and he must be respected within and without the church.

Deacon function? **Lay leader (Local Officer), who serves the local church in support of Overseer**

1 Timothy Qualifications = Respected, truthful, and known to have a clear conscience regarding the Faith. They should be tested and found blameless within the Church. Monogamous, and also whose wives are faithful, temperate and trustworthy (not slanderous gossipers). They must not drink heavily or be greedy for money, and they must manage their households well.

- 3) When Paul writes that he “remembers” people (v. 3), he doesn’t mean that he just thinks about them every now and then. How does he do it? (Do you have a Christian friend you do this for?)

He remembers this church and its people in his personal prayers.

- 4) Paul had great joy in remembering the Philippians because they were his faithful partners in the gospel (vs. 4-5). 8-10 years later they hadn't quit on him after being founded in AD 50-52 as the 1st European continent church! What is the Great Promise of v. 6, and who is fulfilling it? Do you know what God is perfecting in you? When will you be complete and perfect as a Christian?

Promise? **God, who began a good work in me, will be faithful to complete it.**

Work in me? **Personal responses (looking for honesty and meaningful answers showing that class members recognize God is working [desires to work] in their lives).**

Who fulfills and when? **God accomplishes this, completing His work on the Day of Jesus Christ.**

- 5) V. 7 speaks of Paul's imprisonment. From Acts 28:11-16 and 30-31, we learn that as a Roman citizen awaiting trial before Caesar, Paul was permitted to live under house arrest --- at his own expense --- for 2 years. A Roman guard was always stationed there to keep watch over him. During these two years before his death, Paul wrote his final letters, such as this one to Philippi. Do you think the Philippians were ashamed that Paul was imprisoned, or did they stand by him? (How would you feel if our Corps Officers were put in jail for 2 years...?)

The Philippians stood by him. (Interesting Q if the same thing happened to our Corps Officers!)

- 6) What two things were being accomplished for the Gospel during Paul's imprisonment (v. 7)? The second accomplishment has to do with being "partakers...of grace."

1) The Gospel was being defended and confirmed.

2) The Philippians continued to express their loyalty to Paul and to the Faith.

- 7) What Fruit of the Spirit did Paul pray might abound more and more among the Philippians (v. 9)?

Love (...the Fruit of the Spirit is love...Galatians 5:22).

- 8) V. 10 identifies why Christians ought to develop Bible knowledge and Christian discernment. As we grow in these disciplines, how are we to use them? And, as we do this successfully, what happens to our lives, and what will Jesus do for us?

How do we use them? **So that we may approve what is excellent to God!**

What happens in our lives? **We improve our living in personal purity and blamelessness.**

What will Jesus do for us? **He will fill us with the fruit of HIS righteousness.**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: