

Philippians 1:3-11

Oct 25, 2020

Phil 1:3-11 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

B. Paul's remembrance of them – The marks of Christian maturity 1:3-11

1. A mature Christian is thankful (v. 3)

Col 3:15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Col 1:12)

Col 3:17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. (Eph 5:4; 5:20; 1Thes 5:18)

2. A mature Christian is prayerful (v. 4)

Phil 4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Rom 12:12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, (Col 4:2)

Eph 6:18 With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

3. A mature Christian is joyful (v. 4)

Joy (Gk. chara) an inner gladness; a deep-seated pleasure.

Philippians has been called the epistle of joy.

1. The joy of prayer (1:4).
2. The joy that Jesus Christ is being preached (1:18).
3. The joy of faith (1:25).
4. The joy of Christian fellowship and unity (2:1-2).
5. The joy of suffering for Christ (2:17).
6. The joy of news from loved ones (2:28).
7. The joy of hospitality (2:29).
8. The joy of being in Christ (3:1; 4:1).
9. The joy of evangelism (4:1).
10. The joy in a gift (4:10).

Sources of our joy:

Worship

Lk 24:52-53 And they, after worshiping Him, returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising God.

The Holy Spirit

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (Rom 14:17; 1Thes 1:6)

The presence of God

Psa 16:11 In Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Fellowship with other believers.

1Jn 1:3-4 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

4. A mature Christian has fellowship (v. 5)

“your participation”; fellowship = a joint-participation in a common interest and activity; “until now” (fellowship see Ac 2:42; Rom 1:12; 12:5; 1Cor 10:17; Gal 3:28; Eph 4:13; Heb 10:25; 1Jn 1:7;

5. A mature Christian has confidence of God’s ability working in them (v. 6)

He who began (“from the first day” v. 5) a good work in you [past]

“until now” [present]

[He] “will perfect it will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.” [future]

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy (Jude 24)

6. A mature Christian will partner with other Christians (v. 7-8).

This partnership is more than an intellectual relationship. Is one of strong feelings and affection for each other.

It is a partnership of sharing in the gift of grace.

It is a partnership in working for the furtherance of the gospel.

This partnership involves hardship and suffering for the sake of the gospel

7. A mature Christian is growing in love and discernment (v. 9-10) Paul’s prayer for them:

Their “love may abound more and more”

[abound = to be over and above the measure]

Their love would have “real knowledge”;

The knowledge that Paul has in mind is not just intellectual but experiential, acquired through acts of love.

Their love would have “discernment”

(Gk. *aisthēsis*) refers to the ability to make decisions for the benefit of others.

That they would “approve the things that are excellent”

able to determine what is most valuable and beneficial to others

8. A mature Christian is growing in righteousness (v. 11)

Referring to the natural result of belonging to Christ, whose death and resurrection bring righteousness to all who believe

References Used:

The Preacher’s Outline and Sermon Bible
Wuest’s New Testament Word Studies
Faithlife Study Bible