

Philippians 1:1-11¹ Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

I) Intro

- A) Ties in so well with 1 Tim 2 and the command that above everything a Christian has the obligation to pray for others.
- B) Societies greatest need today is the intercession of God in the affairs of mankind
 - 1) **2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my name will humble....
 - 2) **1 Timothy 2:1** Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men...
 - (a) All men includes our brothers and sisters in Christ

Frequency, Thankfulness, fellowship, confidence, completion

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

II) Frequency

- A) Upon every remembrance of you
 - 1) What if one of the marks of our lives was the habit of being in constant prayer for others?
 - (a) Thoughts wander- God leads them
- B) When we think of others, we should pray for them
 - 1) Even those that would do us harm
 - 2) Today we are driven by difference
 - 3) As we think of those that we are in conflict with our thoughts should first and foremost lead us to prayer for them
- C) Imagine if you will... (Rod Serling)
 - 1) You begin thinking of someone/ something that bothers you
 - (a) Easy to drift into anger and thoughts of retribution, etc
 - 2) What if you had developed the habit that whenever you think of them you first pray for them???
 - (i) **Ephesians 4:31**³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.³² And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.
 - (ii) While Paul's 'one another' refers directly to the other Ephesian believers, it is naturally extended to all mankind

III) Thankfulness

- A) Included in those prayers and foremost is a heart of thankfulness for those persons

- 1) It may be difficult at first to thank God for the lives of those you have animosity toward but we have the greatest example
 - (a) **Luke 23:34** Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment and cast lots.
 - (b) If we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit of God, like scripture says
 - (i) **1 Corinthians 3:16** Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
 - (ii) **Ephesians 4:30-32** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
 - (iii) **1 Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...
 - (c) Then we can engage in this level of thought and behavior
 - (i) Imagine that... What if the church acted like Jesus???
 - (ii) What would the world look like??

IV) Conclusion

- A) Paul's purpose in all of his letters is the spiritual growth of the Church.
 - 1) What greater step can we take in our spiritual lives than to surrender ourselves to the Spirit that fills us and begin to pray in a way we have never prayed before!!!
 - 2) **Ephesians 6:17-18** And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—
 - 3) **1 Peter 5:6-9** Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷ casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.
⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. ⁹ Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.