

Midweek Study

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in pursuit of **HAPPINESS** Through Philippians



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The Power of Partnership

Philippians 1:3-5

WE THANK GOD FOR OUR FRIENDS (1:3)

“Thank” - The tense of the Greek verb indicates that Paul was continually thankful to God for the Philippian Christians.

“Every remembrance” means literally “my total recollection of you.”

1. Am I the kind of Christian who brings joy to other’s mind when they think of me?
2. Remember the best, and forgive the rest.
3. Be grateful for the good in people.
4. Remembering people who have blessed us is an effective antidote to criticizing and complaining.

It is a profitable exercise from time to time to recall the names and faces of those who have helped us in our journey through life. Remembering people who have blessed us is an effective antidote to criticizing and complaining. Doubtless Paul mentioned his practice of giving thanks with the hope that others would follow his example.

1. Who is the most thankful person that you know? What makes them so thankful?
3. Are you thankful for: salvation? family? friends? church? When was the last time you thanked God for each of these?

APPLICATION - When you find yourself in prison, or in a hospital bed, or tied to a kitchen sink, or anchored to an office desk, it’s a good thing to remember what God has been doing in your life instead of moaning about your present status.

Paul and John Mark, who had deserted him at a critical time, late in life said, “Bring John Mark” (2 Timothy 4:11)

WE PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS (1:4)

“Prayer” “Request” - *deēsis* (**prayer**), used twice in this verse, has the basic meaning of a request, entreaty, or supplication and, in the New Testament, is always addressed to God.

1. **Prayerless Christians are unhappy Christians.** Lack of happiness reveals itself in three ways:

- in negative thoughts and talk about others,
- in a lack of concern for their welfare, and
- in the failure to intercede on their behalf.

Unhappy believers are self-centered, selfish, proud, and often vengeful, and their self-centeredness inevitably manifests itself in prayerlessness.

2. Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees.

3. Selfless Prayer Does Not...

- ...simply plead to be released from difficult situations
- ...whine at God asking for answers He has chosen not to give you.

4. Four Ways We Can Pray for Others. (1:9-11)

- Pray that they will grow in love. "... abound in love ..." means to overflow, like a tidal wave.
- Pray that they make wise choices. "... discern what is best..."
- Pray that they will do the right thing. "... be pure and blameless..." and have a clear conscious.
- Pray that they will live for God's glory. "... the fruit of righteousness."

WE PARTNER WITH OUR FRIENDS (1:5)

FELLOWSHIP - *koinonia* means "to have something in common with." This Greek word is used in a marriage contract where the husband and wife agree to a joint-participation in the necessities of life. The key idea in the word is that of a partnership, a possessing things in common, a belonging in common to.

GOSPEL – *euangelion* - describes the "good tidings" of the kingdom of God and of salvation through Christ, to be received by faith, on the basis of His substitutionary death, His burial, resurrection, and ascension, (Acts 15:7; 20:24; 1 Pet. 4:17). The apostle Paul uses it of two associated yet distinct things:

- the basic facts of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, (1 Cor. 15:1-3)
- the interpretation of the facts (Rom. 2:16; Gal. 1:7, 11; 2:2)

1. People are the way God moves in the world. Acts 11:13-15

- God didn't use the angel to preach the Gospel; He used PEOPLE!

2. People must be helped to do God's work. Romans 10:8-17; Luke 8:1-3

3. God gives you joy when you partner in God's work. Philippians 1:3-6; 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

- People Partner when they preach. Mark 16:15
- People Partner when they pray. Matthew 26:35-41
- People Partner when they provide (or pay). Romans 10:13-15; Luke 8:1-3

**We Want Happiness.
God Wants the Gospel Preached.
So, God made us to be the happiest
when we are partnering in God's work!**

4. God established tithes and offerings to help us consistently partner with others in God's work. Mal. 3:8-10

Life Principle: Every Person is Essential in God's work.