

Worship Discussion and Reflection Questions

Sermon Series: Rejoice (A Study of Philippians)

Sermon: A Joyful Letter

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-11

Paul and Timothy, servants[a] of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ 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. ⁸ 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, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Reflection Questions:

- When Paul thinks of the Philippian church, he prays with joy—who in your life brings you joy when you think of them, and have you told them?
- Paul expresses confidence that God will complete the work He began in the Philippians—what "unfinished" areas of your own spiritual life do you need to entrust more fully to God's faithfulness rather than your own effort?
- The Philippians were Paul's partners (koinonia) in the gospel from the first day until now—who are you sharing life with in a way that goes deeper than casual friendship or Sunday attendance?
- Paul prays that the Philippians' love would "abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment"—how might growing in knowledge and discernment actually deepen your love rather than make you more critical?
- Paul writes that he yearns for the Philippians "with the affection of Christ Jesus"—what would it look like for you to love someone in your church community with Christ's affection rather than merely human preference or compatibility?

Guided Prayer:

Pray for our church or for a specific group of people in your life following Paul's words in Philippians 1:3-11.