

Philippians 1:1-11

A Genuine Care for Others

Paul begins his letter describing himself as a “servant” for Jesus Christ (v. 1). Paul was sold out for Christ, and despite the difficulties that came with living for the Lord, he reveals three things in chapter 1 that gave him great joy. The first, seen here in verses 1-11, relates to his perspective of others.

> According to verses 3-5, what brings Paul joy? The Philippian believers and the partnership they have with him in the gospel.

> What specific reasons seen in verses 3-11 explain why Paul is thankful to God for the Philippians and so joyful for them? They have a faithful witness; God has begun a great work in their lives; God is continuing His work in their lives; they are partakers with Paul of God’s grace; and they love the Word.

> Why do you think Paul prays for the Philippian Christians on a regular basis (as stated in v. 4)? He has a strong desire to see them continually grow in the image of Christ.

> In your own words, what are Paul’s four prayer requests in verses 9-11? He prays that the Philippians would...

1. Grow in their love for others
2. Know what’s best for their lives
3. Remain godly/good testimony
4. Be doers of good works

Application

Paul could have focused his attention and prayers toward his own well-being. However, he focused on the Philippians by:

- Thanking God for the work He is doing in their lives.
- Desiring to see them continue to grow spiritually.

Paul showed what it meant to truly care for other people. He was burdened for the spiritual growth of others, more than his own physical needs. Sharing the same perspective will impact how we encourage, pray for, and assist those around us!

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