

SERMON NOTES

*Joy for the Journey: Living with an Eternal Perspective
Philippians 1:1-11*

INTRODUCTION:

One of the key themes in Philippians is joy. "Joy" is mentioned in one way or another nineteen times in these four brief chapters. Another emphasis is the mind. As we read Philippians, note how many times Paul talks about remembering and thinking. We can summarize the theme of the book as "the Christlike mind that brings Christian joy." In each chapter, Paul describes the kind of mind Christians must have if they are to enjoy Christ's peace and joy.

Philippi gave Paul the least trouble and the most satisfaction!! Paul had a deep involvement with the Philippians because he invested in their lives. Whenever we invest in the lives of others, we become bonded and attached to them in a special way. Therefore, we feel the responsibility as well as the desire to pray for their needs.

Key thought: Your love for fellow Christians will be evidenced by the character and content of your prayers for them.

THE CHARACTER OF PAUL'S PRAYER:

Description

- Thankful (v. 3) (Psalm 118:1; 2 Corinthians 9:15; Psalm 57:9)
- Joyful (v. 4)

Disposition (vs. 5-8)

- Partnership in the gospel (v. 5)
- Progress in spiritual growth (v. 6)
- Passion (v. 7)
- Perspective (v. 8)

THE CONTENT OF PAUL'S PRAYER: (VS. 9-11)

Three things you should pray for:

- Love may abound
- Discerning spirit
- Filled with the fruit of righteousness

THE CONCLUSION OF PAUL'S PRAYER:

"To the praise and glory of God." (v. 11b)

"The most effective way to influence another is to pray for him." *Ralph Martin*

Take Away:

- Pray with sincerity
- Pray thanking God for the positive aspects of the person's life
- Pray for the specific needs of the person
- Pray for the glory and praise to go to God