

WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE



Philippians 1:3-8--February 19, 2023

Sermon Recap:

Spirit of Thanksgiving

I. "Fellowship fosters joyous prayers of gratitude."

- "partnership"- *koinonia* translates as fellowship
- fellowship- a bond tying people who share a special privilege or treasure together.

a. Thankful Prayers

- Paul models a pattern of thankfulness in his prayers for the Philippians.
- Those who have been united by the gospel in true fellowship should express thanksgiving to God for that blessing.
- Redeemed sinners give thanks to God for those who share the same Savior.

c. Joyous Prayers

- Paul finds great joy in praying for all the members of this church that is so precious to him.
- We delight in the good work of salvation that God has done to unite us to himself and to one another.
- It is an honor and joy to give thanks and lift up the needs of those who saved by the same gospel.

II. "God finishes what He starts."

a. God's Work

- Salvation is the work of God alone.

b. Good Work

- God brings sinners in to right fellowship with him through the work of his Son is a "good work."
- Though there are times that sanctification doesn't "feel good,," it is always for our good and his glory, preparing us for the last day.

c. Sure Work

- God will not abandon what he has started.
- He will complete the work of salvation on the "Lord's Day" when every believer will be glorified; fully set apart from sin.

III. "Grace received grows gospel love."

a. Gospel Love

- The gospel that unites us to God unites us with one another.
- This gospel will create a deep affection/love for other Christians.

b. Shared Grace

- Paul's affection was rooted in the fact that they shared the same saving grace.

c. Gospel Ministry

- When the grace of the gospel changes our lives, it will be evident in Christian service.

Discussion Questions:

- Remember, Paul is writing this from prison, what could be the cause for Paul's joyful thanksgiving? (v.5,7)
- How is it an encouragement to know that salvation is solely a work of God?
- How is it an encouragement to know that God finishes the work of salvation that he begins?
- How does receiving grace from God grow Christian love for others?

Application:

- Identify a church member who you may not know as well as others, ask how you could pray specifically for them this week. Take time giving thanks for them and their faith before lifting up their need.
- Consider the "good work" of salvation that God has done in your life. Identify areas of growth that you have seen and give thanks to God in prayer for that blessing.
- Consider the "good work" of salvation that God has done in the life of a fellow church member. Let a brother/sister know of growth you have witnessed and give thanks to God in prayer for that blessing.
- Ponder and pray about practical ways to improve fellowship in your life and church and share them with a brother or sister.
- In what ways can you, your family, and the church express gospel love through Christian service?

