

PHILIPPIANS

1:1 Paul *and*

Timothy,

bond-servants

of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints

in Christ Jesus

who are in Philippi,

including the overseers *and*

deacons:

why did he mention overseer & deacon by title?

2 Grace to you *and*

peace

from God

our Father *and*

the Lord

Jesus Christ.

Grace/peace comes from God, not something we muster up.

3 I thank my God

in all my remembrance

of you,

Thankfulness requires remembrance/reflection- slow down journal this

4 *always* offering prayer

with joy

Thankfulness is tied to joy. When need joy, give thanks!

in my every prayer

Thankfulness and joy tied to prayer.

for you all,

5 *in* view

of your participation

Paul is most thankful for eternally lasting things.

of you,

in the gospel

from the first day

until now.

Participation in Gospel is an ongoing thing.

6 *For* I am confident

of this very thing,

that He who began a good work

in you

will perfect it

God is prime agent of sanctification. My focus should be nearness to Him.

*until the day
of Christ Jesus.*

7 For it is only right

*for me to feel this way
about you all,*

*because I have you
in my heart,*

*since both
in my imprisonment and
in the defense and
confirmation
of the gospel,*

*you all are partakers
of grace
with me.*

Feelings belong in the faith. Not only rationality.

People must get in my heart not just on my mind.

8 For God is my witness,
how I long

*for you all
with the affection
of Christ Jesus.*

I can access Christ's affection for people.

9 And this I pray,

*that your love may abound
still more and more
in real knowledge and
all discernment,*

The purpose of knowledge/discernment (tied to love) ; opposite of how we think about it in the West.

10 so that you may approve

*the things
that are excellent,*

The purpose of love – very different concept of love.

*in order to be sincere and
blameless*

with the final result of.....

*until the day
of Christ; 1*

11 having been filled
with the fruit

past passive tense

*of righteousness
which comes
through Jesus Christ,
to the glory and
praise
of God.*

MEDITATION AND APPLICATION

- I need to slow down and reflect more and remember all that I have to be thankful for. A lack of thanksgiving is most tied to my lack of proper reflection on all that God has done.
- I need to most thank God for God himself, other people, and eternally mattering things.
- When I need joy, give thanks and pray!
- Don't seek **peace** from circumstances just like I don't seek grace from them. Both come from God. This is going to require a changed mindset.
- God is prime agent of sanctification. My focus should be nearness to Him, not the doing of stuff or trying harder as primary. Nearness to Him brings with it the POWER to be sanctified by the working of the Holy Spirit.
- I need to better allow people to get into my heart where I have deeper affection for them. Todd Foster's "Do people get on your heart or on your nerves?"
- Look more into love tied to discernment/knowledge. We tend to not tie these together with the word love, but in fact, often think of them as contrary to it. Ex. Love/grace means we dismiss any wrong. Here it seems that love brings up wrongs (just as Paul does in His letter) like we love our children and address wrongs. This won't seem judgmental if people first know they are in our hearts (see above).
- People matter. I need them to get into my heart. I have access to Christ's affection for them.
- I have been given the fruit of righteousness through Jesus, Live out and exhibit that fruit. Fruit is not for the tree itself but for a visible sign as to the identity of the tree and for reproducing the tree. Fruit should always lead to glorifying God.