

December 7, 2018

Philippians 1:3-11 Ruth Levins

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains of defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-to the glory and praise of God."

In this passage, Paul uses the word joy in his letters to the Philippians who were remembered with joy and thanksgiving whenever he prayed. By helping Paul they were helping his cause. They were willing to be used by God for whatever God wanted them to do.

When others think about you, what comes to mind here at our church? Are you remembered with joy by them? Do your acts of kindness lift up others? We are partners with God in our valuable contribution in spreading God's message of mercy, forgiveness and love. As we help our pastor, church leaders, and missionaries through prayer, hospitality and financial donations we become in partnership.

God continues with us throughout our lifetime. It all began when his Son gave the ultimate sacrifice in our place. When we accept Him and His Holy Spirit living in us, we are enabled to be more like Christ every day.

Whenever you are discouraged remember that God never gives up on you. Don't ever let any present condition rob you of the joy in knowing Christ and growing closer to Him.

Prayer: Paul's prayer from verse 9: "And this is my prayer, that your love may abound more and more in the knowledge and depth of insight so that you may be able to discern what is best and may you be pure and blameless until the day of Christ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and to the praise of God." - Amen