

THANK GOD FOR YOU

Philippians 1:3-8

How much do we thank God for each other at CPC?

See Paul's model of such thanksgiving

I. His thanksgiving for them: v3-4

Whenever I remember you: thanks (v3)

Whenever I pray for you: joy (v4)

II. His _____ for thanksgiving: v5-6

A. Their fellowship in the gospel (v5)

They are joined by something much greater than themselves: the Gospel and the Commission

B. His confidence that God is working in their lives (v6)

Not focus on their flaws

Egs: 1:15, 17: selfish competitors

4:2-3: two women who quarreling

Or on their assets

But on *God's* gospel work in them

III. His _____ for them: v7-8

A. You are in my heart (v7)

(contrast the Stoics and some of our reserve)

For whether I am "productive" or rotting in prison, you have continued to support me.

I am profoundly grateful for that. It knits us together more tightly.

Loyalty in tough times does that.

- B. I long for you with the affection of Christ (v8)
(i.e. the affection I received reflected to you)

You guys are more precious to me than you can realize.

So learn from this

1. His thanksgiving is to _____ because every reason and expression has its source in God
1:3, 5, 6, 7, 8

Do your thanks focus on God or people?

God-centered thanks keeps you from human-centered expectations and disappointment

2. His thanks are joined with _____
1:4, 9-11

His thanks cultivate a God-focused faith to pray expectantly for them

Do you pray for your brothers and sisters with the confidence that God is at work in them and will eventually make them just like Jesus?

3. He _____ them how he feels

Though his thanks are primarily directed to God for them, he also communicates his gratitude to them in vss7-8 and how precious they are to him.

The power of notes

Take time to encourage someone this week with a note about how thankful you are for them