The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot. Pr. 10:7

**The Portrait of Christian (1)**

I. Thankful & joyful
II. Praying
III. Confident

I. Paul’s portrait as a Christian is a thankful and joyful man
   A. Paul’s thankfulness and joy glorifies God’s enabling grace
      1. Ponder circumstances
         2. What happens you are focused on *thanking* Jesus—others?
   B. What is Paul thankful for and joyful about?
      1. About God’s work in the Philippians
         a. their spiritual commitment—love has been *from day one* (vs. 5)
         b. their perseverance in love: *from first day until now* (4:14-18)
   C. Are you/I *thankful — joyful Christians?*
      1. What robs our joy and thankfulness?
      2. What sustains our joy and thankfulness?

II. Paul as a *praying Christian*
   A. Paul is never complacent or careless about God’s work though confident
      1. Pivot of vs. 3-7 is actually vs 6
         a. vs. 6 breathes *confidence or assurance*
2. Yet Paul is *untiring in prayer for them all* (vs. 4)
   a. Biblical assurance didn’t keep him from his knees
      - Paul resembles His Master: John 17:9, 13, 15, 17, 20, 21-24
   
   b. Paul’s prayer labors: Col. 1:9-12; Eph. 1 & 3

   c. What was the ‘joy’ in which he made his requests?

3. Paul’s prayers were not general
   a. compare 1:9 - 1:10 – 1:11 – 1:26 -29; 2:2-5, 12-16; 3:1. 15, 17; 4:2ff

4. Paul looked for the answers: 2:19; 4:17

**Closing Reflections:** *Is our portrait as a Christian like Paul’s?*

A. To be called a Christian is to be a priest (Cat. LD 12:32)
   1. A priest is one who represents people before God in prayer

   2. In Christ we have access to the throne room: Rom. 5:3; Eph. 3:12
      a. not only as *saints in Christ* (Cat. LD 12:32)

      b. not only as *servants before the Lord* (Cat. LD 13:34)

      c. but also as *children of the Father* (Cat. LD 13:33)

B. What specific *thanks & petitions* are evoked as we think of each other?