

Scripture: Philippians 1:1-7 & Colossians 1:1-8
Singing: 227:1-3 – 333:1-4 – 378:1-3 – 396:1, 3, 4, 6

Let's Study Philippians (2)

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?