

Re-Entry | Pastor Steve Wells | 06.28.2020
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Memory Verse: Philippians 1:6

And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

Read: Philippians 1:1-11 (NLT)

This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the church leaders and deacons. ² May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. ⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, ⁵ for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. ⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

⁷ So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. ⁸ God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹ I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. ¹⁰ For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. ¹¹ May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ^[b]—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

Discussion Questions

What do you learn about Paul from vs. 1-11? Read between the lines a bit here. For example, Paul prays often for the Philippians. What else?

What do you learn about the Philippian church members from vss. 1-11? (Hint: read between the lines.)

Why are the Philippian church members called God's holy people or "saints" in other versions. (1:1). Were they all perfect? Were they all holy?

What confidence does vs. 1:6 give us?

Paul begins the letter by thanking God, with joy, for the Philippians, because they are his partners in the Gospel (v. 3-5). In what ways do you think the Philippians acted out this partnership while Paul was on his missionary journeys? What encourages a sense of partnership among Christians? How can you encourage, through your attitudes and practices, a sense of partnership in the church (v. 7-8)?

Do you believe that being involved in a church community is necessary for living the Christian life? Why or why not? Share some about the impact and importance of Christian community in your own life. In what ways in your life do you act out your "partnership" in the gospel? How can we improve in this?