

**Paul's View on Thanksgiving Part 1**

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**Philippians 1:3-20** <sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup>In every prayer for all of you, I always pray with joy, <sup>5</sup>because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart. For in my chains and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel, you are all partners in grace with me. <sup>8</sup>God is my witness how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup>so that you may be able to test and prove what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup>filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. <sup>12</sup>Now I want you to know, brothers, that my circumstances have actually served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup>As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup>And most of the brothers, confident in the Lord by my chains, now dare more greatly to speak the word without fear. <sup>15</sup>It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. <sup>16</sup>The latter do so in love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. <sup>17</sup>The former, however, preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can add to the distress of my chains. <sup>18</sup>What then is the issue? Just this: that in every way, whether by false motives or true, Christ is preached. And in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, <sup>19</sup>because I know that through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, my distress will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup>I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have complete boldness so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. (BSB)

**I. Here are the details of this passage.**

- A.** He equates being **thankful** to God for the Philippians as the same as being filled with **joy**. V.3-5
- B.** He believes in the **best** in others. V.6
- C.** He has a **heart** for others. V.7
- D.** He has **affection** for others. V.8
- E.** He is **dedicated** to specific **prayer** for others. V.9-11
- F.** He has a big-picture view of his own **struggles**. V.11-14 19-20
- G.** He refuses to oppose other **ministers**, he knows that only God can do that. V.15-18

**II. What can we learn from this?**

- A.** We must **reject** our culture of covetousness around us.
- B.** We must be known as people who are **forgiving** and **gracious** to others who oppose us.
- C.** We must resist the temptation to **judge** other people's motives.
- D.** We must live for an audience of **One**.
- E.** We must keep an eye on the **bigger** picture.