

Memory Verse

Philippians 1: 6

"And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Discussion Questions

Read Philippians 1:1-8, but focus on verses 7-8.

1. One of the first rules of good Bible interpretation is, "Context, context, context!" This includes the *direct context* of the surrounding verses, the *general context* of the book, but also the *historical context* and *cultural context* that the book is written in. Take a few moments to review the general, historical and cultural context of the book of Philippians. (*A good study Bible can be a great help here...*)

- Who wrote this book?
- When and why was it written?
- Who were the recipients? (*Where did they live? What was their cultural background?*)
- What is this book about (*main theme*)?
- What is the overall tone of this book (*commanding, rebuking, encouraging...*)?
- If you were to summarize this entire book in one sentence, what would you say?

2. It is fitting that on Thanksgiving weekend, our text is under the heading "Thanksgiving and Prayer"! (ESV Bible) What is it that you are thankful for and why do they bring you joy? Are these "things" permanent or temporal? (*List them in the chart on the next page. Feel free to use extra paper if you need more room...*)

Thankful for...	Reason for joy...	Temporal OR Permanent

3. How does Paul feel about the Philippian church? Why is it that he feels this way? (*also look back at the previous verses*).

- Define what it means to be “partakers of grace”? (v7)
- Who is it that is a “partakers of grace” with you and how do they partner with you in your walk with Christ?

4. Though Paul is imprisoned when he writes this letter, he affectionately longs and yearns for his brothers and sisters at Philippi. Is there anyone outside of your immediate family that you feel this way about? Describe your relationship with them and what has strengthened it over the years.

5. How can your small group go about growing in love so that you feel as Paul did about one another? What might this look like and what steps would you take to get there?

Breakout

1. The Lord desires for us to grow in grace individually and corporately! Review question 5 together. What steps can you take personally and as a small group?

2. Pray specifically for your small group, that God would knit your hearts together in love; that you would be of one mind together; that you would be used to sharpen each other and stir one another up to love and good works.