



Sunday Sermon Discussion Outline

Pastor Philip Thomas, November 23, 2025

Philippians 1:1-11 – Godly Greetings (Part 1)

Paul begins his letter to the Philippians, as he typically does in all his epistles, with a godly greeting. In this greeting, he draws attention to his joyous prayer for the believers. Throughout the letter, he continues to emphasize receiving, living in, and sharing the glorious joy of the Lord.

We pray with joy for one another because we remember each other.

We pray with joy for one another because of our partnership in the gospel.

We pray with joy for one another because we are confident that God began a good work in each of us, and He will complete it.

We respond and apply the Word of God we have heard by praying with joy for each other, so as to greet each other like Paul did.

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-23)

Discussion Questions:

- How does Paul typically open his epistles?
- What is notable about his greeting to the Philippians? How does this tie into the prevalent theme of the entire epistle?
- What characterizes the joy of the Lord? How does it differ from happiness?
- In what ways did Paul have reason not to be joyful? Why was he able to rejoice in the midst of adverse circumstances?
- What does it mean to pray with joy for others because we remember them?
- What does it mean to pray with joy for others because of our partnership in the gospel?
- What does it mean to pray with joy for others because we are confident that God has begun a good work in them and He will complete it?
- What do you need to do to pray with joy for others?