

LIFE DURING LOCKDOWN #2
“The Joy of Having People in Your Life”
Philippians 1:1-11

One thing Paul had during his lockdown was time. He was under house arrest in Rome for two years, chained to a Roman guard around the clock. Reading through Philippians gives one the impression that he wasn't bored sick and completely discouraged because of his circumstances. In fact, reading through this letter reveals that Paul was emotionally and spiritually healthy. What was his secret? How did he cope with his situation such that he was actually joyful? We've all been challenged with the covid-19 lockdown, and there is much that we can learn about coping with life during lockdown from Paul.

#1. THE TIMELINE OF PAUL'S IMPRISONMENTS, Acts 21:27-28:31 (p. 28-31)

- A. His imprisonment in Caesarea – 2 years (AD 58-60)
- B. Paul appealed to Caesar, Acts 24:11-12
- C. His transfer to Rome & shipwreck – 3 months
- D. His imprisonment in Rome – 2 years (AD 60-62)
- E. He was under house arrest

#2. THE GREETING – GIVING HONOR TO THE PHILIPPIANS, vv. 1-2

- A. Paul is the author & Timothy had a contribution, v. 1
- B. Paul & Timothy are servants (*doulos – slaves*), v. 1
- C. Paul addresses this to “all the saints” in Christ, v. 1
- D. Paul addresses this to the church at Philippi, v. 1
- E. Paul mentions the overseers & deacons, but omits his title of apostle, v. 1
- F. Grace & peace result from the gospel, v. 2
- G. Grace & peace are given from God our Father & the Lord Jesus Christ, v. 2

#3. PAUL EXPERIENCES JOY WHEN HE PRAYS FOR THE PHILIPPIANS, vv. 3-6

- A. He thanks God when he thinks about them, v. 3
- B. He always prays for them with joy, v. 4
- C. He is joyful because of their partnership (*koinonia*) in the gospel, v. 5
- D. He is joyful because he is confident God will complete the work he began, v. 6
- E. He is joyful because he is looking forward to Christ's return, v. 6

#4. PAUL EXPRESSES HIS DEEP FEELINGS FOR THE PHILIPPIANS, vv. 7-8

- A. Paul justifies his feelings, v. 7
- B. Paul has them in his heart, v. 7
- C. Paul sees them as an extension of his ministry, v. 7
- D. Paul views them sharing (*koinonia*) in God's grace, v. 7
- E. Paul knows God can testify to how he longs to see them, v. 8
- F. Paul knows God can testify to his affection for them, v. 8

#5. PAUL'S PRAYER – FOR LOVE TO ABOUND IN THEIR FELLOWSHIP, vv. 9-11

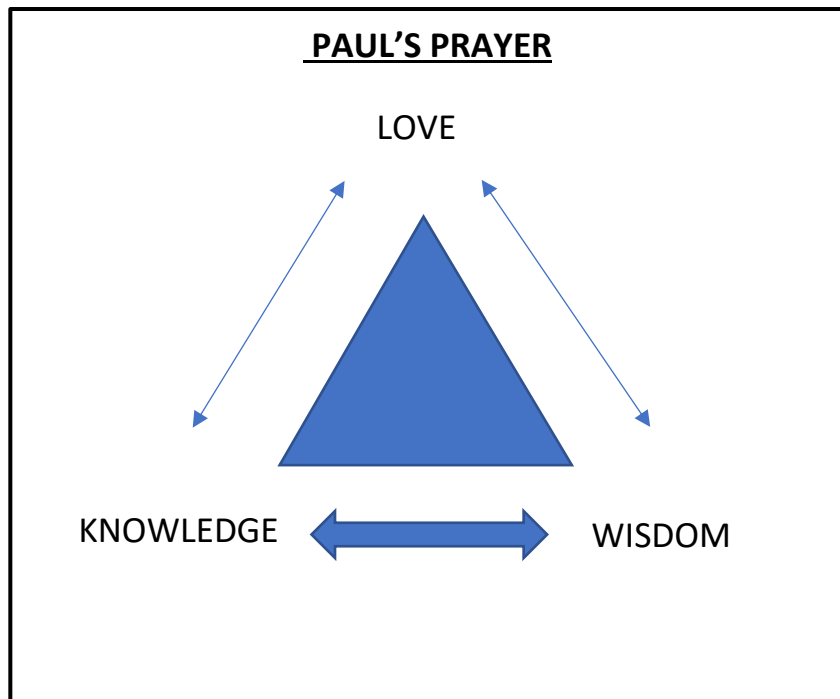
- A. Paul prays for love to abound in their church, v. 9
- B. Paul prays for love to abound in knowledge, v. 9
- C. Paul prays for love to abound in depth of insight (wisdom), v. 9
- D. Paul prays this so they may discern what is best – make good decisions, v. 10
- E. Paul prays that good decisions will result in being pure & blameless until Christ returns, v. 11
- F. Filled with the fruit of righteousness through Christ, v. 11
- G. This brings glory & praise to God, v. 11

Philippians 1:1-11: Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:
²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

#1. Place yourself in Paul's shoes and try to imagine how he felt being imprisoned for about 4.5 years. How would you feel if you had been in his circumstances?

- #2. What catches your attention about the greeting? (vv. 1-2)
- #3. Describe what it means to pray with Joy as we think about important people in our lives? (v. 4)
- #4. What does it mean to be partners (*koinonia*) in the gospel? (v. 5)
- #5. What does it mean to share (*koinonia*) in God's grace? (v. 7)
- #6. Why is it important to be confident in God's ability to finish the work he began in believers? (v. 6)
- #7. There are two days mentioned in this passage: the first day (v. 5), and the day of Christ (v. 6). Discuss the importance of each day.
- #8. What observations can you make about the way Paul felt about the Philippians?
- #9. Why is it necessary to have a balance of love, knowledge, and wisdom in relating to people?
- #10. If you are facing a difficult conversation with someone, in what way(s) can the diagram of Paul's Prayer be helpful to you?
- #11. Discuss the ways in which the world's view of love is different than God's love.
- #12. How is making good choices crucial to one's sanctification? (v. 10)
- #13. Church should be a place where divine love is shared in abundance. State your reasons why you agree or disagree.
- #14. What is your big takeaway from this passage?