



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Philippians Study

Week 1 - Day 5

Approaching God

In yesterday's passage (Phil 1:6) Paul reminds the Philippians of the beautiful truth that God will hold his people and finish the work he has started in him. They can rest secure and assured. Start by clicking on and listening to the song ***He Will Hold Me Fast*** by Keith and Kristyn Getty. Use these words to meditate and pray as you begin your time with the Lord.

*When I fear my faith will fail,
Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail,
He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold
through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold;
He must hold me fast.*

*Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.*

*Those He saves are His delight,
Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in his holy sight,
He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost;
His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost,
He will hold me fast.*

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

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He will hold me fast.*

*He will hold me fast,
He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so,
He will hold me fast.*

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Philippians 1:6-11

These next verses build on the "koinonia" theme Paul introduced in vs. 5, by adding color and depth to what this type of partnership would look like.

Write out the different ways Paul articulates his affection for the Philippian church:

Philippians 1:6-11 - **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. **7** It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. **8** For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. **9** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. Which words or phrases stand out to you as significant, important? Is anything repeated or emphasized?

Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study to answer these questions.

- After reading vs. 1-11, what convictions does Paul express in the introduction of his letter to the Philippians?
- What are some reasons Paul lists for how/why the Philippian church brought him such joy?
- What are the things Paul prays for this church? Try to list 2 or 3 things using your own words.

Meditation & Reflection Questions

- Consider the Christian community you are apart of. Would you say that you are in partnership for the gospel, or is your fellowship more social? Why do you answer that way?
- Paul prays that this wise love will result in moral discernment (vs. 10). Why is moral discernment a necessary component of Christian love?

Close in Prayer:

Paul’s prayer for the church (vs. 9-11) is a prayer that all church leaders might wish to use for the people in their care. It is also a prayer that every Christian might use for himself or herself. For yourself and others, pray that all of you will have love which overflows in knowledge and wisdom, the ability to discern right from wrong, and the fruit of right living to the glory of God.

Commentary on Philippians 1:7-11

1:1- These next verses build on the “koinonia” theme Paul introduced in vs. 5, by adding color and depth to what this type of partnership would look like. There is a sharing of affection, reputation (what people say of you, they will also say of me), of missional goals, of prayer, and of financial responsibility. Paul and the Philippians are indeed in the gospel business, in the business of grace together, and their gift to Paul has proven it yet again.

vs. 7-8 - Paul’s affection for the Philippian church is strong and full of depth. **“It is right...to feel this way about you.” “I hold you in my heart.”** The greek word for hold is “echo” which is used of those closely joined together by the bonds of natural blood, or marriage, or friendship. Paul goes as far as to say, “if God himself were to give testimony about my heart, he would say there is a longing and affection for you with the affection of Christ Jesus.”

“Both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.” When people were put in prison in Paul’s world they were not normally given food by their captors; they had to rely on friends helping them. Since Paul probably couldn’t carry on his tent-making business in prison, he was completely dependent on support like the Philippians provide for him. The fact that people from a different country would raise money, and send one of their own number (Epaphroditus) on this dangerous journey speaks volumes for the esteem and love in which they held him.

vs. 9-11 - Paul’s deep affection and the outworking of their faith in staking their lives, reputation, and finances to this gospel partnership gives Paul added confidence in praying for them. He knows when the gospel does its life-changing work in a people’s hearts, its not just a flash-in-the-pan religious experience that might fade with the passing of time. It means God is at work, finishing what he started. **Paul’s prayer contains three elements: First (vs. 9)** he prays that their love will overflow in **knowledge and discernment**. This is not perhaps, how we often think of love. We think of it as having to do with emotion and affection, not with knowledge and discernment. For Paul they are all bound up together; what we call the “heart” and the “head” are not really separated in biblical language. With the “heart” we think, choose, feel, and experience deep desires. If Christian love is to be the genuine article - true love for God, true love for one another - it is bound to work its way out in a knowledge and wisdom which is more than mere book-learning. This kind of knowledge is a deep insight into the way God’s world truly is, a knowledge open to everyone who is prepared to give themselves wholeheartedly in love to God.

Second (vs. 10) he prays that this wise love will result in moral discernment - **“so that you may prove what is excellent.”** They lived, as we do, in a world where several moral issues were blurred and distorted, and it was often hard to see what was the right thing to do. Paul longs to see them grow in telling the difference between good and evil when so often at first glance they appear to be shades of gray. That way, he says, they will approach the coming Day of the Lord, with confidence, because God will be transforming their whole lives into a holiness that goes even beyond the ritual purity the temple priests would’ve demanded.

Finally (vs. 11) he prays that they would be filled to overflowing with the **fruit of righteousness**. That as a result of God’s faithfulness, and their status as legally justified and forgiven saints in Christ Jesus, that the Holy Spirit would well up within them and overflow into new purposes, and, actions and words indicative of Christ himself living within them. Paul prays the fruitfulness he has already seen in this church, would keep overflowing for the gospel.