

July 13, 2025  
Philippians 1:1-11  
"Practice Gratitude, Pursue Purity, Produce Fruit"

**Principles And Practical Application**

**Author:** The epistle names Paul as its author in numerous passages. Pauline authorship is virtually uncontested. The letter is "theology in street clothes." *Richard R. Melick, Jr.*

**Date:** A.D. 60-63. The epistle was probably written during Paul's first Roman imprisonment, probably near the end of this imprisonment. It is perhaps the last of the four Prison Epistles written by Paul. The other three Prison Epistles include Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon.

**Recipients:** Philippian Christians. This church was the first founded by Paul in Europe. It also represents the first major penetration of the gospel into Gentile territory.

**Theme:** Rejoice in the Lord. In this letter Paul assures them of his appreciation for their lives and for the kindness demonstrated in their recent gifts. The theme of joy is expressed no less than 16 times in this short letter. The above gleaned from: *The Believer's Study Bible*.

Paul is in prison and praying for ALL of them. It gave Paul joy to pray to the Father on their behalf. Paul's hard times were making him better, not bitter. They were partners in the ministry. Paul considered his time in prison as being on the mission field.

Paul's desire for this beloved group was that they be morally pure, not causing others to stumble. Paul prayed for them to be filled with the fruit of righteousness. This prized fruit comes from only one source, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ignatius was a prisoner passing through Philippi in route to Rome to be tried for his faith. This church 50 years after its founding was still faithful, still fruitful, and ministering to others.

God initiates salvation and He guarantees its consummation. The day of Jesus Christ marks His return for His church, then our salvation will be complete.

What is best? The thing that most pleases God. Ask, is this harmful, is it helpful. The thing that is excellent will often not align with your emotions. "I know what the Bible says but . . ."

**Application:** This epistle is a beautiful expression of gratitude. Joy is the keynote. Let God know what you are thankful for in your life. Count your many blessings see what God has done! Carry it further, recall the things people have done that blessed your life in any number of ways. When you have your list of names, contact each one of them and personally thank them for investing in your life. If this comes too late for some who are no longer alive, go the throne of grace in prayer and thank the Father for bringing them into your life. Practice being grateful.

