

Philippians 1:3-7

- 1) What is Paul doing?—1:3a
 - a) ³ *I give thanks [eucharisteo] to my God*
 - b) Gratitude is directed to God the Father.

- 2) When and how is Paul doing this?—1:4
 - a) Frequently—⁴ *always in every prayer [deesis] of mine*
 - b) Inclusively—*for you^{pl} all,*
 - c) Joyfully—*offering the prayer [deesis] with joy*
 - d) Gratitude is consistently directed to God the Father with joy.

- 3) What is the basis of these prayers of gratitude?—1:3b, 5-6
 - a) Fond memories—1:3b *for [epi] every remembrance [mneia] of you^{pl},*
 - b) Their active cooperation in Paul's ministry—1:5 ⁵ *for [epi] your^{pl} fellowship [koinonia] in [eis] the gospel [euangelion] from the first day until now,*
 - i) Such as hospitality (cf. Acts 16:15, 33, 34) and financial gifts (cf. 4:16; 2nd Corinthians 11:9).
 - c) The transforming work of God the Father—1:6 ⁶ *being convinced of this very thing,*
 - i) His gracious initial work at salvation—*that the One who began a good work in you^{pl}* (cf. Galatians 3:3)
 - ii) His guaranteed finished work of final sanctification—*will bring it to completion* (i.e. accomplish His goal) *until the day of Christ Jesus;*
 - (1) This “day” is referred to 3 x in this book (cf. 1:6, 10; 2:16), and 3 x in Paul's other letters (cf. 1st Corinthians 1:8; 5:5; 2nd Corinthians 1:14).
 - (2) Whereas the Day of the Lord is always associated with Israel, the day of Christ is always associated with NT churches.
 - (3) When Jesus comes again (1 Cor. 4:5), when He will transform believers into glorified bodies (3:20-21; cf. 1 Cor. 15:35-49; 1 Thess. 4:13-18). (Rosscup)
 - iii) This confidence is rooted in the immutability of God's decreed purpose and plan.

- 4) What were Paul's affections toward the Philippian congregation?—1:7
 - a) Right thoughts concerning the work of believers—1:7 ⁷ *just as it is right for me to think this* (confidence in God) *about all of you^{pl},*
 - i) *because I have you^{pl} in my heart,*
 - ii) *since ... you^{pl} all are partners [sugkoinonos] of grace [charis] with me.*
 - (1) Prison battles—*both in my imprisonment*
 - (2) Legal battles
 - (a) Negatively: defensively against accusations—*and in the defense [apologia]*
 - (b) Positively: offensively against objections—*and confirmation [bebaiosis] of the gospel,*
 - iii) God's grace is demonstrated in their lives by not being ashamed of Paul nor intimidated while he was in prison.

“Without the internal transformation of individuals there is no corporate transformation of the body; without the corporate transformation of the body there is reason to question the reality of the internal transformation of the individuals.” (Harmon)