

***Praying For Progress till the Day of Christ***  
***Philippians 1:3-11***

***Thanks for your partnership—you are special people, 3-8***

◆ Gratitude expressed, 4-5. I Thess. 1:1-3, II Thess. 1:-1-4, I Cor. 1:4.  
Reason for Paul's continual gratitude = their continued partnership in the progress of the gospel. Note parallel wording in 4:14-18.

◆ Confidence expressed, 6-8. A decade of partnership enables Paul to believe the best about God's future use of the Philippians (II Cor. 8)  
*Confidence:* 1:14,25,3:3,4, II Cor. 2:3, Gal. 5:10, II Thess. 3:4, Plm. 21.  
This ≠ a proof text about perseverance . . . but about partnership!  
Paul's pastoral optimism ("think this way" (KJV,NRSV) is because of a heart-felt attachment to them through giving and suffering, 1:7b,30.

Questions: How about our "partnering for ministry"?  
Do we have reason to be confident about Grace?

***Petitions for the future—you have room for spiritual progress, 9-11***

- ◆ Petition expressed, 9  
--*ever-increasing love* (I Thess. 3:12), which is crucial for unity, 2:2.  
--*knowledge* = only used by Paul in Col. 1:9,10, Eph. 1:17, Phm. 6.  
--*discernment* (Heb. 5:14, common in Proverbs in LXX)—moral insight.
- ◆ Purpose of prayer expressed, 10-11
- 1) To approve /accept what is most vital in life (as in 3:8,14-16).
  - 2) In order to be prepared for the *Day of Christ* (1:6,2:16), which will be a *Day* of scrutiny, Cor 1:8, 3:13. To be *sincere and blameless* (without offence = I Cor. 10:32). Also note I Cor. 1:8, I Thess. 5:23.
  - 3) Being prepared for that Day will require having plenty of righteous fruit which will glorify God. What fruit? See 1:22, 4:17, Gal 5:22

Questions: What about our need for growth in a discerning love?  
Are we involved enough with the "biggies" of life so that we will be ready for the *Day of Christ*?