

I THANK MY GOD FOR YOU

GUIDED SERMON NOTES

Philippians 1:3–11

Follow along with the sermon and take notes. Fill in the blanks. Write down your own responses to what God is showing you.

1 THE CLOSER YOU GET, THE MORE GAPS YOU SEE.

The closer you get to people, the more gaps you see. That is just reality. You can admire somebody from a distance. Then you get close enough to actually know them—and you discover: _____.



The problem is not that we notice the gaps. The danger is when the gap becomes the only thing we can see.

2 PAUL KNOWS THE GAPS — AND HE STILL GIVES THANKS.

Paul knows these people. He knows what he will address later (selfish ambition, grumbling, and even Euodia and Syntyche). And yet he says: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you…" (v. 3)



"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you…"
Philippians 1:3 (ESV)

3 GRATITUDE REMEMBERS GOD'S WORK.

Paul thanks God "because of your partnership in the gospel" from the first day until now." (v. 5)

- Paul identifies real evidence of God's grace: _____
- Gratitude remembers _____.



"because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."
Philippians 1:5 (ESV)

4 GOD IS NOT FINISHED YET.

Paul is confident about them "because he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (v. 6)

- Every one of us has _____.
- Every one of us has _____.



"he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6 (ESV)

5 GRATITUDE PRAYS FOR WHAT'S NEXT.

Paul loves them with "the affection of Christ Jesus." (v. 8) He prays that their love would abound more and more and that they would be "filled with the fruit of righteousness" that comes through Jesus Christ." (v. 9, 11)

- There is already _____
- And Paul prays for _____



"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more… filled with the fruit of righteousness" that comes through Jesus Christ."
Philippians 1:9, 11 (ESV)

BOTTOM LINE: Gratitude sees grace without ignoring the gaps.

MY RESPONSE TODAY

REVEAL
Jesus, show me…
Where competing loves have displaced You?
Where resentment has taken root?

RECEIVE
Jesus, remind me…
I do not learn mercy from the people who surround me.
I first receive mercy from Jesus.

RESPOND
Jesus, help me…
Name one person I need to love with gratitude this week.
What step of mercy will I take?

SERMON NOTES _____

Watch / Listen

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
WOLFEBORO, NH • FOUNDED 1812
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I Thank My God For You

The Weekly Path

Philippians 1:3–11

Read each passage in context. Ask: Who wrote it? To whom? What is happening? How does the surrounding passage shape its meaning?



1 Monday — Why can Paul thank God for imperfect people?

Read
Philippians 1:3–5
Acts 16:11–15

Discuss
What specific reason does Paul give for his gratitude? How does remembering gospel partnership protect us from selective memory?

Apply
Thank God for one person today. Name one specific evidence of grace you see in them.



2 Tuesday — Why does gratitude need confidence in God?

Read
Philippians 1:6
1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

Discuss
What is Paul confident about in verse 6? How does this keep you from demanding finished perfection from unfinished people?

Apply
Think of someone who is still in process. Ask God to finish the good work He began in them.



3 Wednesday — What does Christlike affection look like?

Read
Philippians 1:7–8
John 13:34–35

Discuss
What does it mean that Paul yearns for them "with the affection of Christ Jesus"? How is Christ's love deeper than mere politeness?

Apply
Encourage one person with a text, call, or note that thanks God for the grace you see in them.



4 Thursday — How do you see grace without ignoring gaps?

Read
Philippians 1:9–10
Ephesians 4:1–3

Discuss
Why does Paul move from gratitude to prayer for growth? How can love tell the truth without reducing a person to the problem?

Apply
Ask God to help you see both grace and needed growth in a relationship that has grown difficult.



5 Friday — Who is your "you"?

Read
Philippians 1:11
Colossians 3:12–14

Discuss
Where has someone's gap become the main thing you see? How does the gospel reshape the way you speak, pray, and respond?

Apply
Choose one person. Name one evidence of grace. Then pray Philippians 1:9–11 over them and take one concrete step of love.

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