Philippians 1:3-11 "Paul's Heart and Prayer"

that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

because I have you in my heart,

since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

that your love may abound still more and more

in real knowledge and all discernment, 10

so that you may approve the things that are excellent,

in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;

 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which $\it comes$ through Jesus Christ,

to the glory and praise of God.

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶ For I am confident of this very thing,

⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all,

⁸ For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this I pray,

Observation 1: Apostle Paul's heart is Thankful & Prayerful & Joyful & Confident & Loving v3-8
Observation 2: Why is he so Thankful & Joyful? In view of Participation : Koinonia v5-7
Observation 3: My Prayer & goal v9-11
V9 More Love
V10-11 His prayer has everything to do with your faith affirmed, your holiness, godliness & the glory of God.
Next Week's Passage: *** Philippians 1:12-20 ***

Discussion Questions:

- 1. Maturing Christians will grow in their capacity to love with the affections of Christ. How has Paul's expression of love challenged you? In what way can you abound in love more & more?
- 2. What do you associate with "participation in the gospel?" What comes to mind first for you? How is fellowship different when you are actively engaged in sharing the gospel?
- 3. Please take a moment to evaluate the content of your prayers. Do they fall in line with the "goals" set forth in this passage? Are the general content of your prayers more circumstantial?
- 4. How does Paul bring up the idea of future hope & "the day of Christ" in this passage? In what way does it matter to the discussion of joy & greater growth?