

Bible Study for December 5, 2021

Read: Philippians 1:3-11

Notes:

For this week and the next we will be looking at the book of Philippians. Philippi was a city located in northern Greece and the congregation there was one of Paul's favorites. He had founded the church based on a vision he had of a man beckoning him to come over and help (Acts 16:9), and his time there had been one of both joys and trials. This letter is believed to have been written 12 or 13 years later while Paul is in prison in Rome. In spite of this, Paul still writes a letter containing thanksgiving, as well as his personal situation, and has concerns regarding disunity and potential dangers from false teachers. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission. In today's passage, he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

Questions to Ponder:

Where do you find thankfulness in your life? For what do you give thanks to God?

Why might you give thanks for the congregation you belong to?

What are Paul's feelings for this congregation? What does this show us about his leadership style?

What qualities do you most value in a Christian congregation?

In verse 9 Paul prays that the congregation's love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight. How might you explain the relationship between growing in love and growth in knowledge?