

Prelude to Prayer

A. For **whom** does Paul pray? (vs. 4)

He prays for **all** the saints.

B. **When** does Paul pray? (vs. 3)

In **all** his remembrances of them.

When we pray with intercession we are bringing the concerns and praises we have for others to the presence of **the only One** who has any power.

C. **How** does Paul pray? (vs.4)

Always offering prayer **with joy**.

⁶You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit...
I Thessalonians 1:6

D. **Why** does Paul pray **with joy**? (vs. 5-8)

⁸Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. ⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building.¹⁰According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. I Corinthians 3:8-15

²⁴"Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall." Matthew 7:24-27

1. He has total assurance of **the perfect work of Christ**.
2. Paul rejoices at their **partnership** with him in the gospel.

Partnership = Fellowship

3 Forms of Fellowship:

- 1.) Support
- 2.) Suffering
- 3.) Service

¹Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. ³Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
Philippians 4:1-3

Final Observation:

Their partnership in the gospel began **the moment** the work of Christ began within them.

¹⁴A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us. Acts 16:14-15