

## **Phil. 1:1-11 “BEING JOYFULLY CONFIDENT OF THE GOSPEL”**

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only Son, so that by his coming we may worship you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(Gelasian prayer, 8<sup>th</sup> Century)

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

<sup>2</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. <sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

### **Verses in focus –**

1 – identification of who is the author and who the letter is written to.

2 – the *shalom* greeting of Christians to Christians.

3 – thankful for loving Christians.

4 – praying with joy.

5 – partnering in the gospel.

6 – confident faith.

7 – sharing in God’s grace.

8 – God knows!

9 – the prayer for loving knowledge and insight.

10 – discerning what is best, pure and remaining blameless.

11 – all for the glory of God.

### **Passages to consider regarding these verses –**

Gen. 1-3, Is. 40-55 (particularly Is. 45:23), Acts 16, Phil. 2:6-11, 1 Pt. 3:15.

Lord God, heavenly Father, by your Son you have revealed to us that heaven and earth will pass away, that our bodies will rise again and that we all must appear before the judgment throne. Keep us by your Holy Spirit in your Word, establish us in the true faith, graciously defend us from sin and preserve us in all temptations, that our hearts may not be obsessed with carousing, drunkenness, and foolish cares, but that we may always watch and pray and trust fully in your grace, await with joy the glorious coming of your Son and at last, obtain eternal salvation, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen. (Veit Dietrich 1506-1549)