

WEEK #8 (November 27th) * In Christ
We Bear The Fruit Of Righteousness To The Glory Of God
Philippians 1:1-26

1. Joy is a key word in Paul's letter the Philippians. In your own words, what is joy and how does the Bible's depiction of it differ from that of the world?
2. What does Paul mean by referring to the Philippians' "partnership in the gospel" (1:5)? Does such partnership continue to exist today? If so, how, and why is it important?
3. We get the sense that 1:6 contains an important point, not only for these Philippians, but for Christians in general. What is Paul saying in 1:6?
4. How would you break down and summarize Paul's prayer (1:9-11):
 - > that your love may abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment –
 - > so that you may approve what is excellent –
 - > and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ –
 - > filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ-
 - > to the glory and praise of God –
5. In Paul's mind, how had his difficult circumstances actually "served to advance the gospel" (1:12-14)? Perhaps most importantly for us, how does one develop and maintain such a mindset in the face of extreme hardship?
6. Why would anyone "preach Christ from envy and rivalry" (1:15)?
7. What should we make of Paul's conclusive hope in 1:18?
8. In your own words, summarize Paul's determined resolution in 1:20.
9. Practically speaking, is 1:21-24 even a realistic possibility?
10. Paul has "your progress and joy in the faith" as his target (1:25-26). What does this mean?