

## Philippians 1:1-18 and Psalm 1

Paul is writing to all of God's holy people. That phrase "holy people" stands out to me. Days like today, and other days too, I feel so unholy. Yet, God calls me His own. His calling me His own is the only way I am acceptable in His sight. It is only through the blood and resurrection of Jesus Christ – that I am saved and viewed in such a positive light. God has poured His grace and peace upon us, as His dearly loved children.

Paul had such a love for these people (see 1.7-8). He prayed for them with such joy and thanksgiving. They have been a key aspect of Paul's journey of sharing the Good News. The Scripture states that they were his partners in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. He reassures them (and us) that God will carry on His work in our lives until it is complete. He leaves nothing incomplete. He, unlike many of us, does not leave projects unfinished. We may have several partially completed "to-do" lists while procrastinating several things on our lists, but God is not like that. God cherishes us, and wants to work in our lives.

Paul prays for them that they will keep growing spiritually and understand the significance of God in their lives, so they might continue to live blameless lives. While Paul shares his heart for the Philippians, he also shares the reason for his suffering – so they might have that encouragement, knowing why Paul is far from them and struggling. Their relationship with Paul was very close knit. When other hurt, we often hurt for them. So here, Paul is comforting his friends.

Switching gears: In Psalm 1, we learn that if we want to experience God's joy then we must stop walking in the counsel of the wicked. Our seeking advice from those who aren't closely walking with God – must end. We need to delight in the Word of the Lord – always! To bear spiritual fruit that accompany walking with Jesus, we need to carefully consider the Word of the Lord and be doers of the Word.

### **Reflection Activities:**

1. Do our lives show the fruit of our salvation? Do we seek to grow in Christ, understanding of Him, and to live a life that honors God?
2. Do we view our struggles as a means of advancing the Gospel to those who need to hear it?
3. Meditate on Psalm 1 and how you can delight in the Word of the Lord.

**Further Reading:** Galatians 5:22-23