

Philippians 1:3 – “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you...for your fellowship in the gospel.”

THANKSGIVING FOR FELLOWSHIP

Paul thanked God for the Philippians every (1:4). This was more than thanking God for Christian friends. That is good. But Paul expressed his thanks because of the partnership he had with the Philippian church in spreading the gospel throughout the world (27). When Paul wrote the letter to the Philippians, he was in jail. Paul’s ministry was fruitful even in jail, because of their financial support when other churches weren’t interested (4:10-11). Paul looked at his imprisonment as an added opportunity to preach the gospel (1:14, 17). There are five pastors I thank God for frequently. Their godly influence helped me in my growth as a Christian and as a pastor. I thank God regularly for Christians in every church I have served since I began my pastoral ministry. I don’t want to forget the blessing they have been to me. Just like Paul, these people are more than Christian friends. They are, or have been, partners in the ministry with me. When you pray, remember those who have been a source of blessing to you, to those who are partners in faith. Thank God for them, even if they aren’t alive. It is good to remember that we would not be where we are in faith now if it had not been for the love and sacrifices of others.