

Philippians 1:1-11

The joyful servant, Paul, gives encouragement

(*The People's Bible, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, pages 14-22*)

Look

- Verse 1 *"To all the saints in Christ Jesus"*—Saints are holy ones through faith in Jesus' work of redemption.
- Verse 1 *"Philippi"*—Paul had started the church in Philippi on his second missionary journey. See Acts 16:12 and the following verses for the account of Paul's initial work in that city.
- Verse 2 *"Grace and peace to you."* Grace (God's undeserved love in Christ for sinners) is the cause of salvation, and peace is its result.

Discuss

1. Whom did Paul thank for the faith of the Philippians? for their continued growth in faith?
2. What was Paul's personal situation when he penned this letter?

3. In a few short verses, Paul tells us what being a Christian means. Complete the sentences.

When knowledge and depth of insight grow, _____.

When our love grows in knowledge and depth of insight, _____.

When this happens, _____.

Being pure and blameless means being _____.

When this happens, _____.

Apply

4. In these verses, Paul expressed his warm feelings for the Philippians. Why did Paul have such fond feelings for them? What model does this provide for us?
5. Sometimes we separate the heart and the mind. We view the mind as "knowing" things and the heart as "feeling" things. How did Paul show that knowledge and feelings, specifically love, are joined together?

Paul greeted the Philippian Christians. He expressed his love for them and prayed for their growth.