

Lesson 2: Reasons for Thanksgiving and Prayer

Scripture Song: Rejoice always – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6

A. Thanksgiving for the Philippians

1. Philippians 1:1-7 What reasons do you see for giving thanks to God in the opening comments of Paul's letter to Christians in Philippi?
2. Why is the inspired comment of Paul recorded in Philippians 1:6 so meaningful for your life today?
3. How does Paul's testimony recorded in Philippians 1:12-18 demonstrate a thankful spirit?
4. How can we learn in every circumstance to be more thankful to God? 1 Thessalonians 5:18

B. Prayer for the Philippians

1. Philippians 1:9-11 What are your thoughts about Paul's prayer for the Philippian believers?
2. When was the last time someone prayed like that for you rather than simply making small requests?
3. Why did Paul pray with joy (Philippians 1:3-4) when making these requests to God?
4. In another of Paul's letters, he encouraged Christians to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). How is that possible?
5. How does Paul's request that love abound more and more reflect the desire of Jesus for all believers? John 13:34-35
6. Share a time when God enabled you to love someone with the affection of Christ.

C. Thanksgiving for the Colossians

1. Colossians 1:1-8 What reasons do you see for giving thanks to God in the opening comments of Paul's letter to Christians in Colossae?
2. Where else in the Scriptures can we find an emphasis on the importance of faith, hope, and love? 1 Corinthians 13:13, 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, 5:8, etc.
3. Read Colossians 1:5 again. What is the hope that is laid up for us in heaven?
4. How was it possible for the message about Jesus to spread so rapidly? Colossians 1:6,23, Acts 1:8
5. Share a time the Holy Spirit empowered you to share the truth about Jesus with others.

D. Prayer for the Colossians

1. Colossians 1:9-12 What are your thoughts about Paul's prayer for Christians in Colossae?
2. What are some ways God enables us to "be filled with the knowledge of His will"? Colossians 1:9
3. Share a time when God made His will for your life unmistakably clear.
4. What lessons can we learn about prayer from Paul's example?