



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS for January 7, 2024

Sermon Title: Inside Out

Sermon Series: Authentic: Real Life in Christ, Inside & Out

Preacher: The Reverend Dr. Bryan Eckelmann

Theme/concept

How can we live an authentic Christian life — as 24-hour day Christians with integrity--? In saving us, Christ begins the good work of knitting together the parts of our life that feel divided and often broken, even feel incomplete. He will complete it by his Grace and Peace.

Icebreaker (for groups)

Tell about a person or situation that brings you thankfulness and joy every time you think of them/it.

Reflections on the Sermon

What were your take aways from the sermon?

Scripture (New International Version)

Philippians 1:1-11

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Reviewing the Scripture

1. Who is writing this letter to the Philippians? What title do they give themselves? What does verse 1 tell us about the intended recipients?
2. In verse 2, what is Paul's greeting? Look for other letters from Paul in the New Testament with similar greetings and list them here.
3. When Paul thinks of the Philippian believers, verse 3, how does he respond?
4. When Paul prays for the Philippians, verses 4 and 5, what is his attitude and why?
5. In verse 6, why does Paul feel confident?
6. How are Paul's feelings for the Philippians independent of circumstances? (verse 7)
7. Verse 8 reveals 3 aspects regarding Paul's feelings about the Philippians. List them here.
8. In verse 9 what is Paul's prayer for the Philippians?

9. Verses 10 and 11 reveal the desired outcomes from Paul's prayer for the Philippians. What are they?

Going Deeper

1. Read Acts 16:11-40. From this passage, list people in Philippi who may have seen Paul's letter. What did each of these people do to make Paul remember them with thankfulness and joy?
2. In Philippians 1:1 why does Paul address the church in Philippi as "God's holy people"?
3. How can verse 6 be an encouragement to us as we enter a new year?
4. How can verse 7 bring comfort both now and in the future?

Personal

1. For whom can you pray Paul's prayer from verses 9-11?

Application

1. What have you learned from these passages that you can apply to your current situation in life?
2. Which character demonstrates a behavior that you would like to emulate

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,

Thank you for taking the news about Jesus from Israel west to Greece. Thank you for taking the news about Jesus from Israel east to where the wise men lived. Thank you for the Philippians who embraced the gospel from the first day they heard it. Thank you that your word prevailed whether Paul was in chains or was out preaching about you. Help us to be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of Your Name.

Amen