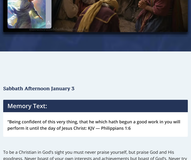
Reasons for Thanksgiving and Prayer

Lesson 2, 1st Quarter, January 5–January 9, 2026



Sabbath Afternoon January 5

Memory Text:

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: KJV — Philippians 1:6

To be a Christian in God's sight you must never praise yourself, but praise God and His goodness. Never boast of your own interests and achievements but boast of God's. Never try to impress others with your ability and strength to promote God's cause. It is God who is to do all to do, and where to go in order that your business, your interests prosper, but rather pray for light that God help you do the thing or go to the place where you would best serve His cause, that He lead you and teach you how to advance His kingdom. Then, and then only, will you find your true interests, your true work, your true place. Many are doing work they do not want you, and where you will have to carry your own burden independent of him.

When you therefore make the Kingdom of God your chief interest, then you will most surely find yourself in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing and reaping God's richest blessing. You can then rest assured that he will open the way and take you where you need to be even if he has to lift you out of the well, and to tell the Ishmaelites to carry you into Egypt and to put you working in Potiphar's house. He may even have to take you into prison before he sets you on

Pharaoh on the throne. Or he may cause you to run away from Egypt and have you keep sheep around Mt. Horeb. He may cause you to escape the Red Sea while the Egyptians are pursuing you. He may bring you into the desert where there is neither water nor food. The lion and the bear may come to take your lambs, Goliath to kill your people, and the king may cast you in the fiery furnace, or in the lions' den.

Sunday January 4

Fellowship in the Gospel

Read Philippians 1:3–8. What is Paul thankful for? What reasons does he give the Philippians, and why is that important?

"In Paul's epistle to the Philippians he says, "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons. Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Christ Jesus:" (Philippians 1:1-6.) 13LMs, Ms 151, 1898, par. 38

"Let us all make this spirit ours. The apostle feels grateful that the Philippians have become converts to the faith, and after giving them his benediction, he expresses his interest, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request with joy." (Verses 3, 4.) This should be the attitude of the ministers to the churches newly raised up. Every minister should be the advocate of the churches in his care and their Christ-like counselor, that the ministers who have labored for them may be able to make their ministry a joy and not a grief." 13LMs, Ms 151, 1898, par. 39

"The apostle sees reason, because of the sincerity of their faith, to have confidence that he will see the fruitage of his labors in the souls of those who are his joy and his crown of good work, begun for them. Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart inasmuch as ye all are partakers of my grace, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace." (Verse 7.) He binds up his newly converted with his own heart." 13LMs, Ms 151, 1898, par. 40

"The Lord would have us here this morning learn our lesson of tenderness and compassion for souls. He would have us say, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you always for your fellowship in the gospel." Yes, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment." Everyone, 13LMs, Ms 151, 1898, par. 41

"We are to consider this statement. We are to make increase in an intelligent and better understanding of that which God requires of us. We are to be earnest, interested learners, not keeping on a low level, but rising to a high and holy atmosphere. Although these brethren are commended by Paul, they are urged to make still further progress, and not be satisfied with their present attainments. They must personensyng increase in love, and abound in knowledge and in all judgment. 13LMs, Ms 151, 1898, par. 42

"Then let prayer and thanksgiving come forth from your hearts, that your influence may be blessed, that your own hearts may be strengthened and made to rejoice in God. Your words are freighted with good or with evil. God help us to be colaborers with him, and when you humbly and prayerfully seek to enlighten others, you will be led in Christ. And the angels of God will make blessed impressions on the hearts you try to save." 13LMs, Ms 151, 1898, par. 43

Monday January 5

Paul's Prayer Requests

Read Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:9–11. What is his focus, and what big requests does he make? Why are these so important?

"Where there is life, there will be growth and fruit-bearing; but unless we grow in grace, our spirituality will be dwarfed, sickly, fruitless. It is only by growing, by bearing fruit, that we can fulfill the purpose for which we live. "Herein is my Father glorified," Christ said, "that ye bear much fruit" (John 15:8). In order to bear much fruit, we must make the most of our privileges. We fulfill our duties and improve our talents by patiently bearing strength. 3T June 12, 1901, par. 7

"A pure, noble character, with all its grand possibilities, has been provided for every human being. But there are those who have not so earnest longing for such a character. They are not willing to part with the evil that they may have the good. Great opportunities are placed before them, but they do not improve them. They do not cultivate the spirit of prayer, to commune with God. They work at cross purposes with the One who is seeking their good. They are dead branches, having no living union with the Vine. They cannot grow. 5T June 12, 1901, par. 3

"One of the divine plans for growth is impartation. The Christian is to gain strength by communing with God. He is to commune with God as he would with a trusted friend. This is not merely a promise. It is a divine law, a law by which God designs that the streams of blessing shall be received and imparted. Christ shall be living in the soul, continually flowing back to their source. In the fulfilling of this law is the secret of spiritual growth." 5T June 12, 1901, par. 4

"It is possible for us to be more than conquerors this Him who gave His life for us. If we come to God in faith, he will receive us and give us strength to climb upward to perfection. If we watch every word and action, that we may do nothing to dishonor the One who has trusted us, if we improve every opportunity granted us, we shall grow into the full stature of men and women in Christ. Exceeding great and precious promises have been given us that we may do this." 5T June 12, 1901, par. 5

"Christians, is Christ revealed in us? Are we doing all in our power to gain a body that is not easily enfeebled, a mind that looks beyond self to the cause and effect of every movement, a heart that is not easily wounded, a temper that is not ruffled, a faith that is not easily shaken and defeated the right? Are we crucifying self? Are we growing up into the full stature of men and women in Christ, preparing to endure hardness as good soldiers of the cross?" 5T June 12, 1901, par. 8

Tuesday January 6

Spiritual Discernment Applied

"There is a lesson for us in this experience of Paul's, for it reveals God's way of working. The Christian who is ever ready to see the faults of others, who is continually looking for evil, who is ever on the alert to find something to cast a shadow on his fellow-laborer, is not following the pattern set before us. Instead of beholding his fellow-laborer, he should behold the Lord Jesus Christ, and if he does so, he will be transformed into the same image. Instead of being a fault-finder, he will become a fellow-laborer, who is ever ready to see the good in his fellow-laborer, who is ever ready to see the good in his fellow-laborer, who is ever ready to see the good in his