

Phil 1.7

1.7-8 RIGHT (Good for me) to be thankful because you 1)in my heart; 2)sharing God's grace;

Philippians 1:7 ESV It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Intro:

Being in a right relationship with God brings joy over and over again. And it is a joy anyone can have.

Paul had worked hard, quickly and through other preachers to establish a congregation in Philippi. His work had been successful. There were individual Christians there that he kept in mind frequently. They were in his heart.

Let's read Philippians 1.7

Paul considered these committed people as partners in offering unbelievers God's opportunities. Together they faced opposition. Together they found people who would make the same commitment they had made. They shared in the joy of knowing each other.

For many years, I have been blessed like Paul, to serve God in many locations. I have served in Clinton, AR, Marshall Texas, Salem Arkansas, Dierks, Lockesburg, Nathan, Percy, Prescott, Antoine all in Arkansas

I have been blessed to have traveled to Dnieper, Ukraine 4 summers; then Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine to teach preachers. A few years later to Minsk, Belarus to teach more preachers. My latest was to Chamala, Tanzania.

In every one of these locations, God blessed me the same way God blessed Paul at Philippi -- with very special people. They were the people that depended on time after time. They become special in your heart. Great memories. Wanting only the best for them back then and now! This is such a joy.

AND as if God had not blessed us good enough, Paul saw the commitment of his co-workers from Philippi. They had become partakers in the grace of spreading God's opportunity to so many.

And I have had the same experience in all the places I have served. Individuals committed to Christ above all else, and willing to work together with other Christians. All trying to give everyone God's opportunity at an abundant life now and heaven in the future.

What a blessing. My life has been full.

Would you like this kind of life?