

Philippians 1:2-6

Philippians 1:2 - (ESV) - **“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”**

5485	4771	2532	1515	575	2316	3962	1473	2532	2962	2424	5547		
charis	hymīn	kai	eirēnē	apo	theou	patros	hēmōn	kai	kyriou	Iēsou	Christou		
2	χάρις	ὑμῖν	καὶ	εἰρήνη	, ἀπὸ	θεοῦ	πατρὸς	ἡμῶν	, καὶ	κυρίου	Ἰησοῦ	Χριστοῦ	.
Grace	to you	and	peace	from	God	Father	of us	and	[the] Lord	Jesus	Christ		
N-NFS	PPro-D2P	Conj	N-NFS	Prep	N-GMS	N-GMS	PPro-G1P	Conj	N-GMS	N-GMS	N-GMS		

- threefold salutation followed by a prayer to the gods for health and wellbeing. Paul used the salutation for substance:
 - The writer (1:1)
 - The recipient (1:1)
 - Greeting (1:2)
 - Thanksgiving (1:3-6)
- The typical Greek letter in Paul’s day would begin with the greeting, **“chairein”** which means “to rejoice”, but as the greeting in a Greek letter it had come to mean “Greetings!”
 - Paul instead switches the word “chairein” to the similar Greek word that sounds and looks similar: “charis”. But, the meaning is “grace” a very strong Christian word since it captures the entire message of the Gospel and the basis of God’s interaction with mankind. In context Paul is saying to the Philippians, “May God’s grace be with you.”
 - Paul follows “charis” (“grace”) with the Greek word for the Hebrew greeting “shalom” with the greek word for peace, “eirene”. Both “shalom” and “eirene” mean “peace as in wholeness and well-being”.
 - It is worth noting the order of Paul’s wording in his greeting: “Grace and peace” and NOT “Peace and grace”. This word order would indicate that in the human experience “wholeness and well-being” only after they have received “grace” from God. The “shalom” ultimately refers to an eschatological well-being that we are beginning to experience in our temporal life.
 - “Grace and Peace” have become Paul’s standard way of beginning letters by the time he writes Philippians. It has already been used in 1 and 2 Corinthians, Romans Philemon and Ephesians.
- The source of this GRACE and PEACE is both God the Father and God the Son.
 - “God Father” and “Lord Jesus Christ” are connected together with the conjunction “and” making them both the source of the divine grace and peace.
- Instead of praying to the gods of the pagans Paul sends the believers greetings of “Grace and Peace” from the true God.

The Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:3-11)

Verse 1:3 begins the Thanksgiving and prayer that is found in 1:3-11, still part of the salutation.

Paul begins many of his epistles (NOT Galatians):

1. Thanking God for the local church (1:3-8)
2. Praying or petitioning for the local church. (1:9-11)

The thanksgiving and prayer by Paul here replace the typical Greek letter wish for health.

- This typical Greek culture wish for health in the salutation is still seen in 3 John 2.
- Instead of wishing health on his readers Paul always turned this into thanking God for the believers.

Here the thanksgiving anticipates what is coming in the body and intent of the letter.

Notice the three-fold bond between those who are working together in a united effort and purpose:

1. Paul
2. the believer/friends
3. Jesus Christ

1:3-8 is one sentence in Greek. English often sees this as two paragraphs.
 A potential word-for-word organization of this 1:3-8 from the Greek could be like this:

“I thank my God / at every remembrance of you / always / in every prayer of mine / for all of you / with joy / the prayer making / for your fellowship / in the gospel / from the first day / until now” (by Fee)

Philippians 1:3 - **“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,”**

2168	3588	2316	1473	1909	3956	3588	3417	4771	
Eucharistō	tō	theō	mou	epi	pasē	tē	mneia	hymōn	
3	Εὐχαριστῶ	τῷ	θεῷ	μου	ἐπὶ	πάσῃ	τῇ	μνείᾳ	ὑμῶν ,
	I thank	the	God	of me	on	every	–	remembrance	of you
	V-PIA-1S	Art-DMS	N-DMS	PPro-G1S	Prep	Adj-DFS	Art-DFS	N-DFS	PPro-G2P

1. Note the singular “my” or “of me” is Paul speaking singularly (not as a group) and identifying God as “my God.”
2. “Remembrance of you” is usually translated as if Paul were thanking God every time he remembered or thought of the Philippians, but the order of the words and the context of the letter would allow Paul’s words to say he is thanking God for the Philippians always remembering him (which is demonstrated by the gift and their sending Epaphroditus to help him). Most translators favor the translation that says that Paul is remembering the Philippians.
3. Paul was thankful for people who responded to his ministry by believing the Gospel. People’s response to Paul’s teaching was a source of encouragement and an indication that Paul was being successful and obedient to his call (1 Thes. 2:19; 3:8)
4. “Every memory” of the Philippians was a cause of thanksgiving for Paul. This is unique because not EVERY memory of the Galatians or the Corinthians was a memory of thanksgiving for Paul. Many churches left Paul with memories that he was not thankful for. But, the Philippians were very consistent and faithful.

Philippians 1:4 - **“always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,”**

3842	1722	3956	1162	1473	5228	3956	4771	3326	5479	3588	1162	
pantote	en	pasē	deēsei	mou	hyper	pantōn	hymōn	meta	charas	tēn	deēsin	
4	πάντοτε	ἐν	πάσῃ	δεήσει	μου	ὑπὲρ	πάντων	ὑμῶν ,	μετὰ	χαρᾶς	τὴν	δέησιν
	always	in	every	supplication	of me	for	all	of you	with	joy	the	supplication
	Adv	Prep	Adj-DFS	N-DFS	PPro-G1S	Prep	Adj-GMP	PPro-G2P	Prep	N-GFS	Art-AFS	N-AFS

1. Paul identifies prayer as the place where his thanksgiving for the Philippians takes place.
2. Here is the first use of the word “joy.”

Philippians 1:5 - “because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

1909	3588	2842	4771	1519	3588	2098	575	3588	4413	2250	891	3588		
epi	tē	koinōnia	hymōn	eis	to	euangelion	apo	tēs	prōtēs	hēmeras	achri	tou		
5	ἐπὶ	τῆ	κοινωνία	ὑμῶν	εἰς	τὸ	εὐαγγέλιον	,	ἀπὸ	τῆς	πρώτης	ἡμέρας	ἄχρι	τοῦ
	for	the	partnership	of you	in	the	gospel		from	the	first	day	until	–
	Prep	Art-DFS	N-DFS	PPro-G2P	Prep	Art-ANS	N-ANS		Prep	Art-GFS	Adj-GFS	N-GFS	Prep	Art-GMS

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now

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1. Paul was thankful every time he thought of the Philippians mainly because he remembers them as partners with him in his ministry.
2. Suggestions for connecting the phrase “From the first day until now” include these:
 - a. “I thank my God” from the first day until now....?
 - b. “Being confident of this” from the first day until now...?
 - c. “I always pray” from the first day until now...?
3. But, because of the flow of the text and the subject Paul is discussing the fact that the church of Philippi has participated in Paul’s ministry from the first day he reached Philippi until now while he sits in a Roman prison. This is confirmed by the gift and the presence of Epaphroditus.
4. “Koinonia” translated as “fellowship” or “partnership” is used 19x in the NT. 13 of the 19 are in Paul’s letters. Paul uses this word for “fellowship” 3x in Philippians.
 - . Here
 - a. 2:1
 - b. 3:10
 - c. 4:15 has a verbal form translated “shared with me”. This best describes what Paul is talking about when he uses the word “koinonia”. He is talking about fellowshiping or partnering together in ministry.
 - d. The ministry of the Gospel is what unifies them and the advancement of the Gospel is also their goal.
 - i. The word “Gospel” is used 9x by Paul in Philippians
 1. Proclaimed 1:15-17
 2. Defended 1:16
 3. Advanced by the lives of believers 1:12 and 2:22
 - ii. Fee: “The gospel (is) a message of salvation based on historical, theological, and experiential evidence.”

Philippians 1:6 - “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

3982	846	3778	3754	3588	1728	1722	4771	2041	18
pepoithōs	auto	touto	hoti	ho	enarxamenos	en	hymīn	ergon	agathon
6 πεποιθῶς	αὐτὸ	τοῦτο ,	ὅτι	ὁ	ἐναρξάμενος	ἐν	ὑμῖν	ἔργον	ἀγαθὸν ,
being persuaded of	the same	this	that	the [one]	having begun	in	you	a work	good
V-RPA-NMS	PPro-AN3S	DPro-ANS	Conj	Art-NMS	V-APM-NMS	Prep	PPro-D2P	N-ANS	Adj-ANS

2005	891	2250	2424	5547
epitelesei	achri	hēmeras	Iēsou	Christou
ἐπιτελέσει	ἄχρι	ἡμέρας	Ἰησοῦ ↔	Χριστοῦ :
will complete [it]	until	[the] day	of Jesus	Christ
V-FIA-3S	Prep	N-GFS	N-GMS	N-GMS

- Paul’s thanksgiving continues by being thankful for God’s continued work in their lives. Paul is confident.
- Paul identifies:
 - The kind of the work God is doing in the Philippians
 - The timing of the work God is doing
- The gift the Philippians sent was evidence of the good work God had begun in them. This good work would continue until the Day of the Lord.