

**Part #2 REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING
AND PRAYER**

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our series on Inspired Letters from Prison. Today's topic: REASONS FOR THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER.

Scripture Song: Rejoice always – 1 Thess. 5:16-18, Phil. 4:6

1) Thanksgiving for the Philippians

- a. 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?
- b. Why is the inspired comment of Paul recorded in Philippians 1:6 so meaningful for your life today?
- c. How does Paul's testimony recorded in Philippians 1:12-18 demonstrate a thankful spirit?
- d. How can we learn in every circumstance to be more thankful to God? 1 Thessalonians 5:18

2) Prayer for the Philippians

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

3) Thanksgiving for the Colossians

- a. 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?
- b. 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.
- c. Read Colossians 1:5 again. What is the hope that is laid up for us in heaven?
- d. How was it possible for the message about Jesus to spread so rapidly? Colossians 1:6,23, Acts 1:8
- e. Share a time the Holy Spirit empowered you to share the truth about Jesus with others.

4) Prayer for the Colossians

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

