

Welcome to our Christmas Celebration!

We are glad you chose to join us today to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We hope that your stay will be both meaningful and memorable.

Our Mission

We are a church that seeks to bring glory to God, to build the local church through discipleship and to fulfill the Great Commission.



Announcements

We are starting our New Year's Sermon Series entitled, "20/20: A Vision for Spiritual Growth" where we will be looking at key passages to remind us that we are *Complete in Christ, Called to Christ and Changed* into the image of Christ.

Join us for our biannual week-long **Prayer & Fasting** to be held on **January 20-24, 2020**. Let's start the new year by coming together as a congregation in prayer as we seek God's favor for our church and for our lives.



How Can We Pray For You?

It is our privilege to pray for you. You may send your prayer requests by text, by writing them on the prayer cards provided or by sending us a private message on our FB page!



Discover Life in the Small Groups

We are passionate about community.

We encourage you to join our small groups where we cultivate meaningful relationships and grow in our relationship with God together.

To join a group, you may inquire from our volunteers at the Information Booth.



Stay for Fellowship & Refreshments

We invite you to stay for coffee and fellowship after the service. Take the opportunity to meet new friends or inquire about our small groups or about the church.

Our weekend Services are held at the Café Corazon (2nd Floor), Bai Hotel, North Reclamation Area, Mandaue City, every Sunday 10AM-12NN and 1PM-3PM.

*The Living Word NRA Center is located at the 2/F Northgate Centre, Banilad (across Country Mall and beside University of Cebu-Banilad).

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LIVING WORD NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.

20/20

A VISION FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Philippians 1:3-11

Pastor Nic Sy | January 12, 2020 | 10AM & 1PM Service

sermon notes



SERMON THEME/BIG IDEA



MY NOTES/HIGHLIGHTS

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of January 12-18, 2020



Sermon quick review

As you recall this week's sermon entitled "Complete in Christ," what was the most compelling or memorable point that stood out or confused or challenged you?

Or

Briefly share (1) a spiritual LESSON that you learned from the sermon, (2) an application from your last week's NEXT STEPS or (3) a PRAISE report from the past week.

Connecting

Who is one of the most influential people in your spiritual life? Does that person know how they have impacted your life?

Group discussion

Read Philippians 1:1-11.

1. What does Paul's greeting to the Philippians tell us about his relationship with them? What kinds of feelings does Paul communicate?
2. The keywords in verses 1-2 are "servants" (literally "slaves") of Christ and "all the saints in Christ Jesus." What do these words mean for Paul and for you?
3. *Share.* Being a slave would also imply utter dependence on Jesus. Do you have that kind of dependence on Christ? In what way or area? Why or why not?
4. Read Acts 16:11-40; Philippians 4:15-18. Although Paul is experiencing hardship as he writes from prison, he has deep affection for the Philippians. How does Paul express this to them in his letter? How do you express affection to someone (not necessarily romantic in nature) that you deeply care for?
5. What do you think is the basis of Paul's confidence in verse 6? What is so important about this promise to us as believers? How does the truth that God

always finishes what he starts encourage you today? On the other hand, how can this be misinterpreted?

6. Read aloud Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:9-11. How would you paraphrase this prayer? Which part of the prayer stands out to you?
7. *Discuss.* What do you think would the "fruits of righteousness" look like in a person's life? In your life?
8. **[NEXT STEPS]** Ask each one to check the boxes that apply to them. Consider these suggestions and be ready to share about your experience next week.
 - ☐ I will commit to go through the devotionals everyday this week.
 - ☐ I will make it a point to send a note of thanksgiving or an encouragement to a person(s) who has significantly impacted my spiritual life.
 - ☐ I will pray Paul's prayer in verse 9-11 for a brother/sister every day this week.
 - ☐ I will follow the example of the Philippians' generosity by being generous in the area of _____ this week.
 - ☐ I will commit to attend at least one session of the Prayer & Fasting on January 20-24.

Closing the session.

(Group facilitators: Before closing, read through the "Personal Reflections & Action.") Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Take time to express your praise to Jesus for who he is and what he has done for you in 2019.
- Pray for those who are going through personal struggles.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.

Personal reflection & action.

He who began a good work in you — saving you and beginning to make you more like Jesus — he will complete that work. If you are in Christ and have known this promise, you've known it is precious.

As flawed, broken, needy sinners we love knowing that end, but what does the promise mean for our lives now, until that day? Paul's joy in and hope for the Philippians wasn't only about completion on the last day, but about progress today, as well.

He wasn't merely celebrating that everything would work out for good, or that God would miraculously make us holy on the last day. He was seeing fruit and growth and boldness and obedience in his relationships and ministry with these friends, and so he believed that that progress would continue. He was sure that the work God had started in them and among them — the work that Paul was witnessing — would increase, develop, and multiply until the end when God would finally finish the work.

Don't lose heart. Don't give up. Don't doubt the passion and ability of God to fulfill the plans of God for you and for the world. Set yourself to love more and more whoever God has put in front of you, and know that he will be preparing you to stand in front of him.

See Question #8 (Next Steps) for specific personal applications.

DAY 4.

FRAGRANT OFFERING

Read: Philippians 4:10-19; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5.

Most of us do not view our paycheck, or the home we have, or the apple pie someone brought over now and then as a fragrant offering to God. We should! Paul did. In our Scripture reading Paul talks both about contentment in times of want and about gratitude in times of plenty.

Clearly the Philippians had provided nicely for their founding pastor. Paul deeply appreciated the gifts that Epaphroditus had brought from Philippi. He not only enjoyed the gifts but also saw them as proof that the Philippians were really living for Christ's glory above all. He knew God smiled on their generous sacrifices and would more than amply bless his people in Philippi.

Today the topic of sacrificial giving can be a touchy subject in the church. Ministers are sometimes accused of being greedy. And preaching on Stewardship Sunday can be a nerve-wracking challenge for many pastors. There may not be easy ways to deal with this more positively, but certainly a step in the right direction would be to recognize that all generous giving is a fragrant offering to God.

It is a privilege to give! Just as we have freely received salvation and new life through the Savior, shall we not freely give?

Reflect & Apply.

1. What do the Philippians and the Macedonians have in common?
2. Have you ever experienced generosity from someone you love? Have you ever been generous in a relationship someone? How did it go?
3. "God's work must be supported by God's people." Do you agree? Why or why not? Imagine what God would do through your generosity. Take a few minutes to reflect on this. Where is God calling you to more generous today?

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DAY 5.
WORK IN PROGRESS

Read: Philippians 1:3-11; John 10:1-18.

He who began a good work in you — saving you and beginning to make you more like Jesus — he will complete that work. If you are in Christ and have known this promise, you've known it is precious.

As flawed, broken, needy sinners we love knowing that end, but what does the promise mean for our lives now, until that day? Paul's joy in and hope for the Philippians wasn't only about *completion* on the last day, but about *progress* today, as well.

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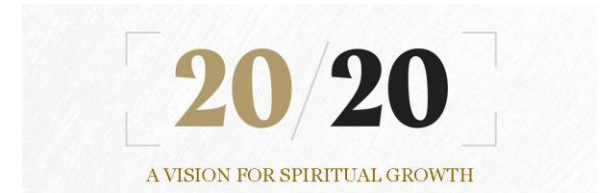
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Reflect & Apply.

1. What evidence do you have of God's work in your life? How is God trying to change your life right now? Give specific answers.
2. Is there any area that the Holy Spirit wants you to grow? What part do you need to play in your journey to maturity?
3. Read Psalm 145:1-7. Make a list of reasons why you should praise God. Take the time to praise him today and for the work that he is doing in your life.

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**Living Word NRA
Worship God. Advance His Kingdom.**



COMPLETE IN CHRIST

January 12, 2020

Questions for Personal Study & Reflection

This 5-day devotional includes readings with brief commentaries that builds upon the weekend sermon. You are encouraged to take the time to read the Bible passages and meditate on them. On average, you will need 20-30 minutes to complete them.

Reflection questions and applications are intended to invite you to slow down and mediate on the truth that God is teaching you. Daily application steps are also given to help drive the message in practical ways.

DAY 1.
PRAYING WITH JOY

Read: Philippians 1:1-4.

Imagine if the rainbow was just one color arched across the sky. It would still look nice, but nowhere near as cool. Imagine if there was just one note in music. The Gregorian Monks would still have their song repertoire, however, music as we know it would be drastically changed.

Thankfully, we don't have to live in such blandness but are blessed with incredible diversity. We are appreciative of this most of the time, until it comes to people.

We all have people in our lives who do things a little differently. They may be in your work place, in your church, or even in your family. To be honest, there are times when we'd rather be on our own than around some people.

When Paul was writing to the church, he prayed for joy for ALL of them (verse 4). I'm sure there were some who had opposing ideas or ways of doing things and who may have got under his skin. But he still prayed for joy for all of them.

There are times when we get so intolerant that we think it would be easier to do things on our own. But when that's the case, we can only create a rainbow with one color or a song with one note. When we start to appreciate each other's diversity then we can pray with joy, even for those so different to ourselves.

Reflect & Apply.

1. Paul calls himself a servant of Christ. The word in the Greek means slave. It means having utter dependence on Christ. Do you have that kind of dependence on Jesus? Why or why not?
2. Paul feels so strongly for his Philippiian friends that he thanks God for them and prays for them. Have you prayed for a Christian brother lately? What did you pray for?
3. Do you know a brother/sister who has been "hard to love"? Commit to pray for that person everyday this week. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the joy of praying for this person.

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DAY 2.

CONFIDENT IN GOD'S GOOD WORK

Read: Philippians 1:3-8.

From the very beginning of the letter, Paul shares how much the partnership of the Philippian church means to him. Whenever he prays for them, he does so with joy. Through this little glimpse into Paul's prayer life, we get to see how Paul finds joy in all circumstances.

At this point in Paul's life he is writing from prison, probably chained to a guard. Because of his boldness to proclaim the gospel, he has ended up in jail. It would be easy for any of us to say that Paul had the right to be upset and angry over his circumstances. Instead, he finds joy because of what he was able to partner with the Philippian church in doing the work of the Gospel.

Why does Paul have joy? It's because of what we find in verse 6. God was doing a good work in the Philippian church and he had confidence that that "good work" would continue on until Christ returned. Because of this, Paul can rejoice even though he is in chains because the gospel is working in the church and spreading because of it.

Reflect & Apply.

1. Why was Paul thankful for the Philippians? Why do you think that would bring him joy even while he is in chains?
2. What are you thankful for in your life? Even when times are tough, what brings you joy?
3. Are there other places (or persons) you are tempted to look to for joy? Take a moment to reflect on this. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? Is there something you need to repent of? Is there something you need to surrender to the Lord?

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DAY 3.

PRAYING WITH PURPOSE

Read: Philippians 1:9-11.

Paul wraps up his opening remarks with a prayer for the Philippian church. At the heart of this prayer is his desire for them to grow in their faith and relationship with Jesus. He prays first for an increase in their love combined with “knowledge and depth of insight.” Paul’s hopes for the Philippians is that they will not only become smarter, but also wiser in the way that they live out their faith and that they will do so in love.

This is very similar to what Paul tells the Corinthians that love is more valuable than knowledge (1 Cor 8:1) and is in fact the greatest characteristic of a Christian (1 Cor 13:13). He prays this for them that they might choose the right path in following Christ so that in the end, they will be found pure and blameless when Christ returns.

Paul's prayer is a great reminder for us of what our aim in life should be. In the pursuit of happiness, we often find ourselves in search either of love that leads to acceptance or in search of knowledge that will lead to success. Paul shows us that to really grow in Christ and to be filled with the fruit that life, we need love and wisdom together. Both of them sound good on their own and can be very beneficial, but it's only together that we can really grow in our relationship with Jesus.

Reflect & Apply.

1. Spend some time reflecting on Paul's prayer. Which part of it do you need to pray for your life right now? Do you need love that abounds in knowledge and insight (verse 9)? Do you need to know how to discern the best (verse 10)? Do you need the fruit of righteousness (verse 11)?
2. Who can you pray this prayer for? Spend the rest of your time praying this prayer for yourself, for others and for the Living Word NRA church.

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