

Compass Bearing #30
Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic
"An Attitude of Gratitude" by Pastor Mark Ellcessor
Saturday, May 30, 2020

At tomorrow's online worship service, I will preach my last solo sermon to all three of our campuses. The following Sunday (June 7) I will team up with Jeremy Duncan, Clayton Anderson and the incoming Lead Pastor Jason Rice. Then on June 14, my last Sunday with the church, we will open up our campuses for in-person worship (more details to come soon).

But tomorrow is my last opportunity to say thank you to all of you for nearly two decades of ministry. I hope you will tune in at www.thecompass.church or find us on our YouTube channel at 10:00 a.m. Sunday.

As a little preview of my message, let's look at Philippians 1. Paul was the founder of the church at Philippi. A decade later, most likely while imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote this letter to his Philippian friends and fellow believers. In my message tomorrow, I'll look at verses 1-11, but for this devotion, let's dig into verses 3-4 only:

³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Three things stand out:

1. Paul's gratitude for the Philippian people. He says, "*I thank my God every time I remember you.*" I know how he feels. Sentimentality and gratefulness well up inside me whenever I think of the good people of the Compass Church. I thank God for you.
2. Paul's reflections of his early days in Philippi. Paul goes on to say, "*In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now...*" Nostalgia and fondness take over my mind and heart when I remember our early days together and journey through the years in my memory. I am blessed by God because of you.
3. Paul's confidence that God will see the Philippian church through their transitions. He states, "*...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*" Confidence and trust rise up in my spirit as I think about all that lies ahead for The Compass Church. I trust God for your future.

So, thank you for all you are and all you have done with me through the years. I will forever hold you in my heart with great affection. I thank God for you, I am blessed by God because of you, and I trust God for your future. God is good, all the time!