

Philippians 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Analysis

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you (Εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ μου, Eucharistō tō theō mou)—The verb eucharistō ("I give thanks") begins Paul's thanksgiving section, a standard epistolary feature elevated to profound gratitude. **My God** expresses intimate personal relationship, not private possession. The phrase **upon every remembrance** (ἐπὶ πάσῃ τῇ μνηίᾳ, epi pasē tē mneia) could mean "every time I remember you" or "in all my remembrance of you."

Philippians is Paul's most affectionate letter, written to his first European congregation and most faithful financial supporters (4:15-16). Unlike Galatians (no thanksgiving) or Corinthians (qualified thanks), this opening radiates warm pastoral love. Thanksgiving pervades Philippians—eucharistō family words appear throughout despite Paul's imprisonment.

Historical Context

Ancient letters typically opened with thanksgiving to the gods or health wishes. Paul Christianizes this convention, directing thanks to the one true God for spiritual realities rather than material prosperity. The Philippian church, begun with Lydia's conversion and the jailer's household (Acts 16), remained Paul's most stable, generous congregation through decades of ministry.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Who in your life prompts thanksgiving to God whenever you remember them, and why?
2. How can you cultivate the habit of gratitude even in imprisonment or hardship like Paul?
3. What does it reveal about a church when an apostle can thank God for them without qualification?

Interlinear Text

Εὐχαριστῶ	τῷ	θεῷ	μου	ἐπὶ	πάσῃ	τῇ	μνησίᾳ	ὑμῶν
I thank	G3588	God	my	upon	every	G3588	remembrance	of you
G2168		G2316	G3450	G1909	G3956		G3417	G5216

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:4 (References God): I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

2 Timothy 1:3 (References God): I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

1 Thessalonians 3:9 (References God): For what thanks can we render to God again for you, for all the joy wherewith we joy for your sakes before our God;

2 Thessalonians 1:3 (References God): We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;

