

4. Εὐχαριστῶ τῷ Θεῷ μου πάντοτε^① μνησίαν
 σου. ^a πολούμενος ^{←a} ^b ἐπὶ τῶν προσευχῶν
 μου, ^{←b} (no data for consideration on verse 3)

-1. The application of giving thanks at all times should not be regarded as an absolute hyperbole but more as representing the attitude of the Apostle in his willingness to give God thanks for the fruit of his ministry. In Paul's eyes there was no doubt as to the source of his success. The verse may be read two ways however and this point is applicable in either sense. "I thank my God always making mention of you by my prayers," or "I thank my God, always making mention of you by my prayers."

-a..a Here is a present middle adverbial participle used in a complementary sense completing the action of the first clause. "I give thanks....making mention of you". This same mode of expression is carried to verse 5 with "...hearing"...etc.

-b..b With this phrase the Apostle shows by what means he makes mention of Philemon. His method of remembrance is not wishful thinking but praying. "By means of my prayers I make mention of you." The use here is that of the ablative of means indicating the tools of the writer's activity.

Resultant Reading:

I give thanks to my God remembering you at all times by means of my prayers,