

# Paul Prays 1:9-11

So Far:

- church at Philippi - Lydia, possessed girl, jailer, Acts 16
- special relationship with Paul

a) You are on My Mind 3-6

- remembering you brings joy and thanksgiving
- we are partners in this
- see God at work in you

b) You are in My Heart 7-8

- no circumstances can affect this – long to be with you
- we are family – brothers and sisters, love from God

You are in My Prayers:

***“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.”***

***Phil 1:9-11***

## 1. That your Love May Abound

- interesting – attested they are generous, faithful, partners in the gospel, God evidently at work
- know that – 4:2 – two women not getting along, some disunity and grumbling happening
- desires maturity as disciples – continue to love

- 1 Cor. 13 – Love is, Love never, Love always...
- Greatest Commandment – Love the Lord your God.....
- duplicating God's heart towards our world and each other
  - for God so loved the world he .....
  - greater love has no one than this.....
- may abound – overflow the banks, be uncontained, spill out of you towards others
- would your discovery of God's love, change how you see and interact with each other and your world.
- How can this happen?

## a) In Knowledge

- 15 times Paul has used this term
- context of understanding God – ‘real knowledge, knowledge of the ultimate reality’
- Deeper than just information – 4 levels of ‘know’
- starting line for love to grow and abound – getting into the word, praise, prayer, spending time leaning about and experiencing God.

## b) Depth of Insight

- beginning to understand the mystery
- seeing Christ and Culture clearly – making the connection between truth and change

## 2. Pray You Might See Clearly

- notice no request for the absence of trials, protection from attack, ease of existence – but increase in love through knowledge and insight, and the ability to apply it in life – discernment!

- vs 10 NASB ***“so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ;”***

- three stages of the word approve:

i) ‘to test’ – 1 John 4:1 ***“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”***

- prove or test to see if it is from God

ii) give assent to, agree with – found in our text, able to give and answer for, see clearly what is best

iii) trial that metals are given to test their nature – able to verify it is right – Romans 12:2 ***“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”***

- see clearly what is right, and choose it – discern
- in order to be sincere, ‘pure and blameless’
  - sincere – literally without wax, honey that is pure and transparent. Root in Gk, ‘sun’ and ‘to judge’
  - sculptor and marble – wax, potter and wax

- pure, blameless, sincere – bride that is flawless, transparent, clearly without blemish and flaw
- Christ is returning for His bride – keep it in focus
- Discernment does not lose sight of what is important, true, critical and allows decisions to be made in light of this
- Paul prays for them to see clearly, have the ability to spot the deception, choose the truth, trust the word, and be ready for the return of Jesus

### 3. Evident Fruit

- filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes from Jesus Christ

- growth of fruit takes time and tending
- Galatians 5:22-23 ***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”***
- 2 Cor. 9:10 ***“As it is written:“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.” Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”***
- Eph 5:9-11 ***“Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.”***

## So What

### 1. Grow as Disciples

- develop a love that can abound
  - be in the word, ponder the mystery, allow your heart to be permeated

### 2. May You See Clearly

- able to see deception and lies
- able to test and approve – be confident in truth
- free to choose to live in accordance with that truth

### 3. May you experience the Work of God through this

- granting fruit that glorifies God