

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE PHILIPPIANS
PHIL. 1:9-11

Introduction:

- A. Paul was a praying person.
 - 1. Paul prayed and was saved.
 - 2. Paul prayed and was delivered.

- B. Paul prayed for the Philippians. v9
 - 1. "and this I pray."
 - 2. They were a joy to pray for. v4
 - 3. "I am offering my prayer with joy."

I. WHAT WERE SOME THINGS PAUL PRAYED FOR? v9

- A. "That you love may abound. (be more than enough)."
 - 1. "In knowledge."
 - a. "a knowledge that has a powerful influence on the knower."
 - 2. "in all judgment."
 - a. Power of discerning, perception by the external senses.

- B. This super-loving knowledge and judgment would equip them to do better work.
 - 1. Paul wasn't trying to improve the quality of their leisure time!
 - 2. "That ye may approve things that are excellent."
 - a. approve = examine, assay, to test metals to see if they are pure, to approve after trial.
 - b. excellent = different, discrepant. "That you may learn to prize what is of value."

- C. "That ye may be sincere."
 - 1. sincere = judged in the sunlight, and so found to be genuine.
 - 2. Artificial light or dim light can fool us.

- a. Buy clothes under florescent lights.
- b. Look for car on parking lot. (lighted).

D. "without offense,"

- 1. Offense = not stumbling, not causing to stumble.
- 2. If we are genuine we do not cause to stumble.

E. "till the day of Christ."

- 1. "in preparation for the day of Christ."
- 2. The day when Christ takes over.

F. "Being filled with the fruit of righteousness."
produced through Jesus Christ.

- 1. "your life all covered with the harvest of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ."
- 2. This does not convey the idea of fruit only, but a rich harvest.
- 3. He is the vine, we are the branches.
- 4. "Abide in me that you may bring forth much fruit."
 - a. A detached branch, does not produce.

II. MUCH FRUIT IS NOT TO MAKE US LOOK GOOD, BUT TO JUSTIFY GOD.
"UNTO THE PRAISE AND GLORY OF GOD."

A. When we are what we should be, God is vindicated.

- 1. Truth is.

B. God's saving of us is justified.