

# Paul's Prayer for the Saints in Christ Jesus in Philippi

Philippians 1:9-11

- “That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment”
  - Love growing and ever increasing
  - Love God and Christ, brethren, and fellow man
  - Love of truth necessary
    - 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12
  - Love must be under the influence of truth; not some kind of excitement or sentimental emotion
    - Love according to knowledge and discernment (good judgment)
  - We are concerned with what is worthy of our affections and our devotion
    - Colossians 3:2 (KJV)

- “That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment”
  - For Good Reason #1: “so that ye may approve the things that are excellent”
    - True, we need to prove all things and know what is true and genuine – 1 Thessalonians 5:21
    - Approve – accept as proven
    - Excellent – excels in value; stands out from the average or the common
    - Predicated upon first hating and detesting all that is not pure and holy (Psalm 119:104)
    - Goes from hating evil to beyond neutral to wanting the things that are good and even beyond to the things of excellent value

- “That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment”
- For Good Reason #1: “so that ye may approve the things that are excellent”
- Some excellent things
  - The knowledge of Christ – Philippians 3:8
  - Wisdom from above – Daniel 5:14
  - A godly spirit – Daniel 5:12

- “That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment”

- For Good Reason #2: “that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ”

- Sincere – true and pure before God

- Without offense – offense toward God or men (Acts 24:16; Matthew 18:6)

- Till the day of Christ – with a view toward, with that final day in mind when Christ will come in judgment to reward the faithful and punish the evildoer

- This is about your eternity!

- “That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment”
  - With a Desirable Result: “being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ”
- Righteousness – 1 John 3:7
- John 15:4, 5

- “That your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment”
  - With a Grand Purpose: “unto the glory and praise of God”
  - Glory, adoration, homage given to God
  - 1 Corinthians 10:31
  - 1 Peter 4:11
  - Matthew 5:16

- Love abounding in knowledge and all discernment
  - Love intelligently according to truth
    - Proverbs 23:23; John 17:17
  - God, Christ
    - 1 John 2:5; John 14:15; Psalm 97:10
  - Brethren
    - Hebrews 13:1
    - 1 Corinthians 13:4-6
    - Galatians 5:13
    - 1 Peter 3:8-9
    - 1 John 4:20-21
  - Husbands toward wives
    - Ephesians 5:25
  - Parents toward children
    - Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:19
  - Children, grandchildren toward parents, grandparents
    - 1 Timothy 5:4



- That your love may abound in knowledge and all discernment *that you may approve the things that are excellent*

- Encourages growth in knowledge and wisdom (Colossians 1:9)
- Encourages self-sacrifice (2 Corinthians 8:1-2; 12:15)
- Causes us to examine not only whether a thing is right or wrong but whether it is best for us or for others (1 Corinthians 6:12)
- Encourages us to excel!
- Eliminates some bad attitudes
  - Where does it say not to?
  - Do I have to?
  - Apathy and indifference

- That your love may abound in knowledge and all discernment that you may approve the things that are excellent, *that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ*
  - Encourages us to keep our motives pure (1 Timothy 1:5)
  - Encourages us to genuinely love brethren (1 Peter 1:22-23)
  - Causes us to consider our example and influence on others (1 Timothy 4:12-16)
  - Eliminates some bad attitudes
    - That's your problem
    - Contentiousness
    - Bitterness

- That your love may abound in knowledge and all discernment that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, *being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ*

- Encourages us to put on the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Encourages us to be busy in good works (Ephesians 2:10)

- That your love may abound in knowledge and all discernment that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, *to the glory and praise of God.*
- Reminds us of the purpose for which we have been put on this earth (John 15:8)

## Philippians 1:9-11

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.