

Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

Philippians 1:9-11

Paul's Prayer For The Colossians – *Colossians 1:9-14*

▶ For what did he pray?

"For this cause we also, since the day we heard (it), do not cease to pray and make request for you,

1. *that ye may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*
2. *to walk worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;*
3. *strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, unto all patience and longsuffering with joy;*
4. *giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; who delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love; in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins."*

Paul's Prayer For The Ephesians *Ephesians 1:15-20*

For what did he pray?

That THEY might know:

- ▶ God.
- ▶ The hope of God's calling.
- ▶ The riches of God's inheritance.
- ▶ The power of God.

Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

That Their Love May Abound (1:9)

"Yet more and more" ...

- ▶ History with Paul. Philippians 4:15-16
- ▶ History toward needy saints. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
- ▶ Growth must never stop. cf. 2 Peter 1:5-8; *"Abound more and more"* in love. 1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

That Their *"Love May Abound" (1:9)*

"In knowledge" Right standard.

"and all discernment" ... Using wisdom.
Hebrews 5:12-14; cf. James 1:5;
Proverbs 2:1-9

- ▶ Paul's prayer for them is that their love might abound for the right things and in the right way!

Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

That They May *"Approve The Things That Are Excellent." (1:10a)*

- ▶ Purpose: Why love should abound.
- ▶ *"Approve"* – to try, test, demonstrate. cf. Romans 12:2
- ▶ To ourselves.
- ▶ To others. God's way is best. cf. 1 Peter 2:11-15; Deuteronomy 6:24

Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

That They May Be *"Sincere And Without Offense"* (10b)

- ▶ *"Sincere"* – "found pure when unfolded and examined by the sun's light ... pure, unsullied, sincere." (Thayer)
 - Perfect openness toward man and God.
 - With a clear conscience (not hypocritical)
- ▶ *"Without offense"* – not to provide occasions for others to stumble. Romans 14:13

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Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

That These Virtues Would Last *"Unto The Day Of Christ."* (1:10c)

- ▶ This is the second time in this epistle Paul has referred to this *"day"* (cf. 1:6)
- ▶ The day when Christ comes again, a day of *"destruction"* for some, but *"glory"* for others! 2 Thessalonians 1:7–12; cf. Matthew 13:41–43

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Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

"Being Filled With The Fruits Of Righteousness" (1:11)

- ▶ Such fruits are possible only *"by Jesus Christ"* ...
 - For without Him, we would not know what true love really is! – 1 John 3:16
 - For without Him, we would not have the ability to demonstrate what is excellent. – cf. Philippians 4:13

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Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

"Being Filled With The Fruits Of Righteousness" (1:11)

- ▶ Such fruits are to be offered *"to the glory and praise of God"* ...
 - Just as Jesus said in letting our light shine – Matthew 5:16
 - Just as Peter wrote in speaking of our good works – 1 Peter 2:11–12
- ▶ And rightfully so, for it is God who through the gift of His Son has ...
 - Shown us what love really is.
 - Taught us what things are really excellent in His sight.

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God's Desire For Us

Philippians 1:9–11,
"And this I pray,

1. *that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment;*
2. *so that ye may approve the things that are excellent;*
3. *that ye may be sincere and void of offence unto the day of Christ;*
4. *being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are through Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."*

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