

Sunday, June 28, 2009-- Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul—Philippians 1:9-11—A Prayer for Abounding Effectual Love—Part 2

### **Introduction/Review**

- Today we are going to finish the second part of Paul's prayer for the Philippians.
- Overview of Prayer: Paul prays the following on behalf of the Philippians
  - That your love may abound more and more:
    - in knowledge
    - and in all judgment
  - That ye may approve things that are excellent
  - That ye may be sincere and without offence until the day of Christ
  - Be filled with all the fruits of righteousness
- Last we covered discussed the first two points. Without reproaching the entire message from last Sunday we saw how in Verse 9 there is both the quantitative and qualitative aspect of love.
- Paul is not talking about romantic love but agape or brotherly love that we ought to possess and demonstrate for one another as believers. This is the love that motivated Christ to die for us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8) and ought to motivate us to live the Christian life as believers (II Corinthians 5:14). This is type of love described by Paul in I Corinthians 13.
- In verse 9 Paul prays that the Philippians would abound (overflow, exceed, and increase) more and more in this love. The use of the word “yet” implies that the Philippians already loved one another. Since love is a quantitative entity there is always room for improvement. Paul's point is that the Philippians would abound, increase, or grow beyond their present status of love.
- More and more—this duplication suggests that this increase in love does not take place instantaneously, but ideally it should progressively grow in the process of time. In other words our love for each other as a church ought to be maturing as time goes by.

- Paul is not interested in them just having more love, but more love of a given kind.
  - Knowledge—associated with understanding the nature and truth for the current dispensation of Grace.
  - Judgment-- The act of judging; the act or process of the mind in comparing its ideas, to find their agreement or disagreement, and to ascertain truth; or the process of examining facts and arguments, to ascertain propriety and justice; or the process of examining the relations between one proposition and another. In Scripture, the spirit of wisdom and prudence, enabling a person to discern right and wrong, good and evil.
- We further saw how verse 10 continues the idea. It is through our love abounding in knowledge and judgment in verse 9 that we approve (test, examine, scrutinize, recognize as genuine after examination) the things that are excellent (differ, lawful from unlawful, to approve of things that excel). Romans 12:1-2—while all things are lawful all things are not expedient and do not edify we need to follow after the things which make for edification and peace as we on the basis of knowledge, judge, and approve the good from the acceptable, from the perfect or mature.

### **Philippians 1:10 Continued**

- As we begin looking at the second half of the verse once again we are encountered with the word “that.” In other words there is a reason that we are to approve things that are excellent so that we might be sincere and without offence.
- Sincere—means pure, unsullied, found pure when unfolded by the sun’s light. This word only occurs one other time in the New Testament.
  - II Peter 3:1—pure minds
- While the word translated sincere only occurs twice in the New Testament, Paul discusses the issue of purity throughout his epistles.
  - Romans 14:8
  - Philippians 4:8
  - I Timothy 1:5, 3:9, 4:12, 5:2, 5:22
  - II Timothy 1:3, 2:22

- The implication in Philippians 1 is clear by judging and approving the things that our excellent we maintain our spiritual sincerity or purity. This is the process that helps us not get involved with things that would defile us whether they are false doctrines or attitudes and actions that are not becoming the doctrine.
- Without offence-- having nothing to strike against, not causing to stumble, not striking against or stumbling, metaphorically--not led into sin, blameless, without offense, not troubled by a consciousness of sin.
  - Acts 24:16—void of offense
  - I Corinthians 10:32—give none offense
- By approving things that are excellent not do we keep ourselves pure concerning our own faith and practice but we will follow after the things that will not cause others to stumble or be lead into sin.
- As the love of believers abounds in perfect knowledge and judgment of the truth given to the Church, and as this enables us to approve things that are excellent our lives will be pure and void of offence.
- How long are we to continue living with this mind set? Till the day of Christ.

### **What is the Day of Christ?**

- Paul is the only Biblical writer to use the expression day of Christ. Simply stated this is the day that belongs to Christ, it is his day.
  - Philippians 1:6—the good work will be performed until the day of Jesus Christ.
  - Philippians 2:16—there will be a rejoicing in the day of Christ because Paul will realize that he had not run or labored in vain.
  - I Corinthians 1:8—day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- What do we learn about the day of Christ from the few times Paul uses this phrase:
  - Philippians 1:6—God who began the good work in the Philippians will continue to perform it until the day of Christ. In other words when the day of Christ arrives God's work on their behalf will cease because his purpose will have been fulfilled

- Philippians 1:10—by functioning in knowledge and exercising judgment we are to approve things that are excellent so that we can be sincere and without offence until the day of Christ. So when the day of Christ comes this process will cease.
- Philippians 2:16—the day of Christ will be a day of rejoicing as we realize that our life and labor for Christ was not in vain.
- I Corinthians 1:7-8—Paul wants the Corinthians and therefore us to be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Does this sound anything like being sincere and without offence until the day of Christ?
- In contrast the expression “day of the Lord” occurs 18 times in the word of God. Only three of which are found in the New Testament, with only one mention by Paul. In addition, the phrase, “that day,” “the day” and “that great day” occur more than 70 times in the Old Testament referring to the day of the Lord.
- I Thessalonians 5:1-9—the Thessalonians don’t need to worry about the day of the Lord because they will have already been caught away to meet the Christ in the air in chapter 4.
- II Thessalonians 2:1—Paul beseeches them based upon their knowledge of their gathering together unto him. What is that? The event described in I Thessalonians 4 commonly called the rapture.
- II Thessalonians 2:2—this is correctly translated day of Christ because the Greek word in question is Christos.
- The day of Christ cannot be the rapture because according to verse 3 prophetic events must precede the arrival of the day of Christ and this would violate the prophecy mystery distinction.
- Ephesians 4:30—how long are we sealed by the Holy Spirit? Until the day of redemption.
- Ephesians 1:13-14—how long is the Holy Spirit the earnest of our inheritance? Until the redemption of the purchased possession. Ephesians 1:7 we already possess a spiritual redemption and forgiveness of sins, what is left to redeem? Our physical bodies.

- I Corinthians 15:51-53—the Biblically correct term for the rapture is the day of Redemption when we are redeemed from these physically corruptible bodies and fitted with a body fashioned like after the glorious resurrected body of Jesus Christ.
- Philippians 3:21—at the day of redemption we are fitted with a body that will allow us to participate in the day of Christ in heaven.
- The day of Christ is day of rejoicing for Christ and his body. It includes the following events.
  - Judgment Seat of Christ—Romans 14:10, II Corinthians 5:10, I Corinthians 3:9-15—Note the connection here with being blameless and not having run in vain or labored in vain. It is here at the judgment seat of Christ during the day of Christ that our eternal rewards will be dispensed.
  - Presentation to the Father—Ephesians 5:27
  - Front Row Seat for the Purification of the Heavenly Places—Revelation 12
  - Inserted into the positions of rank and authority throughout the heavenly places—Revelation 12