

Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul

Philippians 1:9-11

A Prayer for Abounding Effectual Love
Part 2

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

Philippians 1:10 Cont.

- 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

Philippians 1:10 Cont.

- The implication in Philippians 1 is clear by judging and approving the things that are 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 be 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

Philippians 1:10 Cont.

- By approving things that are excellent not only 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 is the Day of 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.
 - 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 arrives 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?

What is 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.

What is the Day of Christ?

- II Thessalonians 2:1—Paul beseeches them based upon their knowledge of their gathering together unto him.
- 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.

What is the Day of Christ?

- Ephesians 4:30—how long are we sealed by the Holy Spirit?
- Ephesians 1:13-14—how long is the Holy Spirit the earnest of our inheritance? Ephesians 1:7 we already possess a spiritual redemption and forgiveness of sins, what is left to redeem?
- 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.

What is the Day of 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

**Body of Christ Meets Christ in
the Air**

**Day of Redemption=Rapture
Receive Glorified Body**

“Mystery”

**Body of
Christ**

**Kept Secret
Since the World
Began**

Day of Christ In Heaven

- Judgment Seat of Christ
- Presentation of the Body to God the Father
- Front Row Seat for the Purification of the Heavenly Places
- Inserted into the positions of rank and authority throughout the heavenly places