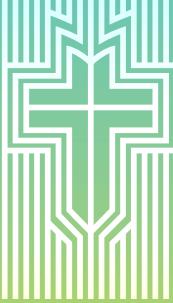


PHILIPPIANS

The Joy of Gospel Faith



PRAYING FOR GROWTH THROUGH THE GOSPEL

WEEK TWO | SEPT 13, 2020

Philippians 1:9–11
Pastor Phil Ward

SERMON OUTLINE NOTES

I. THE PETITION AND PURPOSE OF PAUL'S PRAYER (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10A)

- A. We pray for abounding love (Philippians 1:9a)
 - 1. This love is self-giving and is patterned after God's love demonstrated in Christ (Romans 5:8; Philippians 2:1–5)
 - 2. This love grows “more and more”, which means it's not instantaneous but progressive (1 Thessalonians 3:12)
 - 3. This love is for one another (Philippians 1:4,7), and grows out of the gospel since it is patterned after Christ (Ephesians 5:2)
- B. We pray for a love that knows and discerns (Philippians 1:9b)
 - 1. This love is regulated by a knowledge of the gospel (Philippians 3:8–10)
 - 2. This love requires discernment for all of life (Roman 12:2)
- C. The purpose of our prayers for love: to approve what is excellent (Philippians 1:10a)
 - 1. Life is filled with so many choices between what is good, better, and best that we need to grow in our discipleship and discernment
 - 2. Love that is shaped by the knowledge of the gospel and applying it to all of life is how we learn to approve what is excellent

II. PRAYING FOR GROWTH THROUGH THE GOSPEL (PHILIPPIANS 1:10B-11)

- A. Paul's desire results of prayer (Philippians 1:10b)
 - 1. For the church to be pure and blameless (John 13:34–35)
 - 2. For the church to be filled with the fruit of righteousness (Philippians 1:11a)
 - 3. For the church to take the long view, and be shaped by what is seen (Philippians 1:10b; 1 John 3:1–3)
- B. We pray for gospel partners to through the gospel for the sake of the gospel. (Philippians 1:11b)

PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. What kind of love is Paul praying to grow in the Philippians? Why is this kind of love so important to grow in?
2. How can we help one another grow in their love? What role does the gospel play in our efforts to help others?
3. In your own words, what is love that knows and discerns?
4. What is Paul's purpose for praying such a prayer? Why do you think he prayed this kind of prayer for the Philippians?
5. What does it mean for the church to take the long view of spiritual maturity? How does taking the long view help us in the present?
6. Who are the "gospel partners" you need to pray for?
7. How can communion strengthen us to pray more joyously for gospel growth in our gospel partners?