



**A LIFE**

*PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS*

**OF JOY**

## Paul's Letter to the Church of Philippi: A Message of Love & Encouragement.

- **Acts 16:** Paul and the Philippian Christians share mutual hardships that have forged within them a deep love for one another and Joy in Jesus.
  - He is not writing to correct, instruct or rebuke them ... he's writing because he deeply loves them ... and they love him!
- The purpose of Paul's letter: *"Thank you for your love & concern!!"*

*<sup>10</sup> I praise the Lord that you are concerned about me again ... <sup>18</sup> At the moment I have all I need and more, because I am generously supplied with the gifts you sent me with Epaphroditus! (Chapter 4)*

**Last Week:** Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

1. Joy is relational. (v. 3)

*<sup>3</sup> Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God ...*

**Truth #1:** Joy is *not* a response to circumstances, but to healthy relationships with God, others and self.

**Last Week:** Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

1. Joy is relational. (v. 3)

*<sup>3</sup>Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.*

2. Christian Joy is fueled by partnering with others in Christ. (v.v. 4-5)

- *<sup>4</sup>In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy,*
- *<sup>5</sup>because of your partnership (**koinonia**) with me in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.*

**Truth #2:** “*partnership*” is not hard to measure.

- a. Prayer ... we pray consistently for others.
- b. Serving ... we delight in fussing over others.
- c. Generosity ... we bring what we have without reservation.

**Last Week:** Joy – some key ingredients. (Philippians 1:3-6)

1. Joy is relational. (v. 3)
2. Christian Joy is fueled by partnering with others in Christ. (v.v. 4-5)
3. Christian Joy lives in the present ... but anticipates the future. (v.v. 6)

*<sup>6</sup>And I am confident of this: that God,*

- *who began the good work within you,*
- *will continue his work*
- *until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.*

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

*<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in full knowledge and all perception, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

**... a short prayer with a powerful explanation.**

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**1. A Short Prayer** (v.9)

*<sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer:*

- **that your love** may abound more and more in full knowledge and all perception ...

a. Love - Gk. - agape: a love of choice, *not* sentiment; an act of the will, *not* emotion.

*<sup>4</sup> Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud <sup>5</sup> or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. <sup>6</sup> It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. <sup>7</sup> Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 13*

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**1. A Short Prayer** (v.9)

<sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer:

- **that your love** may abound more and more in full knowledge and all perception ...

a. Love - Gk. - agape: a love of choice, *not* sentiment; an act of the will, *not* emotion.

**Note:** agape is where everything begins ... “*God is agape*” (1 John 4:8)

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**1. A Short Prayer** (v.9)

*<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer:*

- *that your love may **abound more and more** in full knowledge and all perception ...*

**b.** *abound more and more ...* (literally) – to overflow from the inside-out.

- Paul is asking God for agape to overflow out of these people.

*7-10 My beloved friends, let us continue to love each other since love comes from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn't know the first thing about God, because God is love—so you can't know him if you don't love.*

1 John 4

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**1. A Short Prayer** (v.9)

*<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer:*

- *that your love may abound more and more **in full knowledge and all perception** ...*
  - c. *in full knowledge and all perception.*
    - **full knowledge** – understanding that leaves no doubt about what is true.
    - **all perception** – moral insight that produces clear conviction.

*I treasure your word in my heart so that I might not sin against you. ... I delight in following your statutes ...<sup>15</sup> I meditate on your precepts & fix my eyes on your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.*

Psalm 119:11-16

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**2. ... A Powerful Explanation** (v.v. 10-11)

**<sup>10</sup> SO THAT:**

a. *you may be able to discern what is best.*

... (literal Greek) – “*you may be proving the differing in things*”

- processing in every situation the difference between what is good and what is the best.

Note: anyone can discern right from wrong ... but few are able to discern best from good.

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**2. ... A Powerful Explanation** (v.v. 10-11)

**<sup>10</sup> SO THAT:**

- a. *you may be able to discern what is best.*
  
- b. *you may be pure and blameless until Christ returns.*
  - possessing a character that stands up to scrutiny & inspection.
    - God's scrutiny: your personal integrity.
    - the World's scrutiny: your relational integrity.

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**2. ... A Powerful Explanation** (v.v. 10-11)

**<sup>10</sup> SO THAT:**

- a. *you may be able to discern what is best.*
- b. *you may be pure and blameless until Christ returns.*
- c. *you may be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.*
  - producing a harvest of what Jesus has sown in you.
    - in the Bible you will learn righteousness.
    - in prayer you will submit your will to righteousness.
    - in the Spirit you will be led into righteousness.
    - in Jesus you will produce righteousness.

- <sup>1</sup>Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked,  
or stand in the way that sinners take, or sit in the company of  
mockers,
- <sup>2</sup>but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on  
His law day and night.
- <sup>3</sup>That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields  
its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither...

Psalm 1

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

**2. ... A Powerful Explanation** (v.v. 10-11)

**<sup>10</sup> SO THAT:**

- a. *you may be able to discern what is best.*
- b. *you may be pure and blameless until Christ returns.*
- c. *you may be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ.*
  
- d. God will receive glory and praise.
  - our maturity is for God's glory, not ours.
    - we benefit ... of that there is no doubt.
    - but God gets the glory ... just as it should be.

**This Week:** Paul's Prayer For Those He Loves. (Philippians 1:9-11)

1. A Short Prayer. (v. 9)
2. A Powerful Explanation. (v.v. 10-11)

**3. A Simple Lesson: ... Love More!**

- Struggling to discern your future .... Love more!
- Losing the battle for purity & personal integrity ... Love more!
- Wondering how to train up your children to follow Jesus ... Love more!
- Worried about where our nation is going ... Love more!

**Truth:** Love is a decision of your will ... Choose to love, in the power of Christ.

*9-11 This is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of: bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.*

Philippians 1:9-11 - The Message