

## Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

Philippians 1:9-11

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## 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."

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## 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.

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## 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

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## Paul's Prayer For The Philippians

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

*"In knowledge: ... Right standard.*

*and all discernment" ... Using wisdom.*

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!

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## 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 2:15; Deuteronomy 6:24

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### 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.<sup>10</sup>

### 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.*" <sup>11</sup>

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