

Paul's Prayers 3 – Philippi

- *And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Phil 1:9-11*

This I Pray:

- ❑ A prayer of fine distinctions – Being Meticulous
- ❑ *that* (*hina*) your love may abound still more and more
- ❑ *in* (*en*) knowledge and all discernment,
- ❑ *that* (*eis*) you may approve things that are excellent
- ❑ *that* (*hina*) you may be sincere and without offense
- ❑ *till* (*eis*) the day of Christ,
- ❑ *being* filled with the fruits of righteousness
- ❑ *which* are by (*eis*) Jesus Christ,
- ❑ *to* (*eis*) the glory and praise of God. Phil 1:9-11
- ❑ Logical Progressions
- ❑ hina purpose intent and logical end
- ❑ en in the midst of or the instrument or means to get in
- ❑ eis entrance into; the goal to be reached

Your Love May Abound - Jesus

- *15 "If you love Me, **keep My commandments**.*
- *21 He who **has My commandments and keeps them**, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." Jn 14:15, 21*
- *If you **keep My commandments**, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's **commandments** and abide in His love. Jn 15:9-10*
- Our love for Jesus is measured by how we keep His commands. The more meticulous and careful the more love we show.

Your Love May Abound - Disciples

- Love cannot abound until we know what it is.
- A ***new commandment*** I give to you, that you ***love one another; as I have loved you***, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." *Jn 13:34-35*
- *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, Eph 5:25*
- We must learn to love as Jesus loved.
- *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. 2Cor. 8:9*

Your Love May Abound

- Love cannot abound until:
- 1 we know what it is
- 2 until we know how to get and manifest it
- *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. 1Cor. 13:4-8*
- *And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor 13:13*

In* Knowledge & Discernment

- **en in the midst of ; the instrument or means to get in*



- *Agape –love cannot abound without knowledge and discernment.*
- *It is a divine love that requires knowledge and discernment.*
- *How can I act in the best interests and not out of selfish interests or personal feelings without knowing what is in their best interests?*

Knowledge & Discernment

- “*epi-gnosis*,..... denotes “exact or full knowledge, discernment, recognition,” and is a strengthened form of *gnosis* expressing a fuller “knowledge,”
- “*epi-gnosis* – *thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly; to know accurately, know well...*”
- *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Tim 2:15*

Knowledge & Discernment

- “*ais-thesis*... perception, not only by the senses but also by the intellect; cognition,...Phil 1:9, of moral discernment, the understanding of ethical matters ” (Thayer, p. 17).
- to love as Christ can't rely on their own intellect or emotional makeup
- We must have book, chapter and verse...
- We must have definitions and other Scriptures.
- *Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so. Acts 17:11*

Knowledge & Discernment

- *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Mt 7:21-23*
- Jesus warned that calling Him Lord without the knowledge and discernment of the Father's will would lead to complete rejection.

That you May Approve

- “*dokimazo*...To test, examine, prove, scrutinize...to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy.” (Thayer, p. 154).
- *Test all things; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 1Th. 5:21-22*
- *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. 2 Cor 13:5*
- *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1Jn 4:1*

Things that are Excellent

- “*dia-phero* ...to bear or carry through any place...to carry different ways, ie. to carry in different directions, to different places...to differ...to test prove the things that differ, i. e. to distinguish between good and evil, lawful and unlawful...” (Thayer, p. 143).
- Two different ways that result in the same end refer to fine distinctions.
- See the fine distinction and choose the best way.
- What Eve did not do ... we must do!
- Scripture – not a ruler with inches or half inches.
- A micrometer that can measure in the 1000’s

Things that are Excellent

- Those who can't make fine distinctions are babes.
- *And I, brethren could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, as unto babes in Christ. 1 Cor. 3:1*
- *For everyone that partakes of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But solid food is for full grown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil. Heb. 5:12-14*

Things that are excellent – Acts 15

- Gentile Circumcision to obey the gospel.
- Paul went by revelation. Gal 2:1-4
- Apostles and elders to consider the matter.
 - Peter – God used me ... I didn't circumcise
 - Paul & Barnabas – We performed miracles ...
 - James – The OT Prophets agree no need.
- The Letter: *it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden.*
- They approved the things that are excellent.
Now they can be sincere.

That you may be Sincere

- *hina ... to the intent that; to the end that, in order that; (Thayer 2443)*
- *Sincerity comes after making fine distinctions not before.*
- *The intent, end and purpose to making fine distinctions is so that we can be sincere.*

That you may be Sincere

- “*eilikrines*,.. unmixed, without alloy, pure,
- Judged in the sunlight and found pure and therefore our conscience feels free and clear.
- Since we know love requires we keep the commands and make fine distinctions, we can't be sincere unless we know exactly what God wants.
- Our culture has it backwards. They teach ignorance brings sincerity. Scripture teaches knowledge of the truth brings it.

That you may be Sincere

- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. 8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. Pr. 3:5-7*
- How can we be sincere, knowing we must not lean on our own understanding. Only when we know God's word can we have faith and trust that it is God's Will.

That you may be Void of Offence

- “*aproskopos*,... actively, having nothing for one to strike against; not causing to stumble;.. metaph. not leading others into sin by one’s mode of life... passively, not striking against or stumbling; metaph. not led into sin; blameless.” (Thayer, p. 70).
- Once again, I can’t be certain that I will be void of offence unless I first study the Scriptures and once we see the light we can be sincere and know that God will approve.

That you may be Void of Offence

- Passive - Not the cause of
- *Give no occasion of stumbling, either to Jews, or to Greeks, or to the church of God: even as I also please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of the many that they may be saved. I Cor. 10:32-33*
- Active – God can't find it within us.
- *Wherefore also we make it our aim, whether at home or absent, to be well-pleasing unto him. For we must all be made manifest before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad. 2Cor. 5:9-10*

Filled with the fruit of Righteousness

- When
- your *love may abound* still more and more
- *in knowledge* and all *discernment*,
- *that* you may *approve things that are excellent*
- *that* you may be *sincere and without offense*
- Filled with the fruit of Righteousness

To the Glory & Praise of God

- This will bring glory and praise to God that he can accept and approve.