

# 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:

- ❑ Fine Distinctions – Meticulous – Cautious – Wisdom
- ❑ *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

# Love Abound – knowledge / Discernment

- Without Knowledge/Discernment – Can't Be Done!!
- *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*
- *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*

# Your Love May Abound

- Love cannot abound until:
  - we have both knowledge and discernment.
  - *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*
  - If what we are doing does not fulfill all of these things– call it what you will **IT IS NOT LOVE!!**
- Love can't abound without knowledge of all this

# In\* Knowledge & Discernment

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



- *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

- *Jesus said unto them, Is it not for this cause that you err, **that you KNOW not the scriptures**, nor the power of God? 25 For when they shall rise from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as angels in heaven. 26 But as touching the dead, that they are raised; have you not read in the book of Moses, in (the place concerning) the Bush, how God spoke unto him, saying, I (am) the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? 27 He is not the God of the dead, but of the living: **you do greatly err.** Mark 12:24-27*
- We must know the Scriptures if we are to keep His commandments and manifest our love to Him.

# That you May Approve

- “*dokimazo... to try* 1. *to test, examine, prove, scrutinize* (to see whether a thing be genuine or not), as metals... 2. *to recognize as genuine after examination, to approve, deem worthy.*” (Thayer p. 154; 1381).
- **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

# That you May Approve

- *dokimazo ... to try to learn the genuineness of something by examination and testing, often through actual use - 'to test, to examine, to try to determine the genuineness of, testing.'* (Lou & Nida)
- *'I bought five pairs of oxen and am on my way to **test** them out' Luke 14:19;*
- *'everyone should **examine** himself, and then eat the bread and drink from the cup' 1 Cor 11:28.*
- *the **testing** of your faith produces endurance Jas 1:3*
- *'when your fathers **tested** and tried (me)' Heb 3:9.*



# 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,
- .. *different things, has the meaning of distinguishing things that are different.*
- *differ in the simple comparison of the radiance of the stars (1 Cor 15:41).*
- *what is absolutely distinctive, that which really matters. ...*
- *to be of considerable value, 'so that you will be able to choose those things that are more valuable*

# 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*

# That you may be Void of Offence

- Active – God can't find it within us.
- *Happy is he who does not condemn himself in what he approves. 23 But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin.  
Rom 14:22-23*

Filled with the fruit  
of Righteousness



# Filled with the Fruit of Righteousness

- ❑ Fine Distinctions – Meticulous – Cautious – Wisdom
- ❑ *that* (*hina*) your love may abound still more and more
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# To the Glory & Praise of God

- All of the above is necessary to be
- Filled with righteousness
- To give glory and praise to God.
- We can't just do what comes into our minds and give glory and praise to God.