

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:

- *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
- *hina* for the purpose that, to the intent that, to the end
- *en* in the midst of ; the instrument or means to do
- *eis* entrance into; the conditional state into which one enters, the end to which one reaches

Your Love May Abound

- *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
- 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

- *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*
- Jesus knew that His love for God required He perfectly keep all God's commands ... We know that our love to Him is assessed by the same goal.

Your Love May Abound

- Jesus equated love and obedience to commands:
- *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. 14 **You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.***
Jn. 15:13-14

Your Love May Abound

- The degree that we keep His Words reveals the depth of our love. If we don't keep His word we don't love Him. Those are His words not ours.
- *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. 24 He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. Jn. 14:23-24*

Your Love May Abound

- Reveals depth of our love and quality of disciple:
- *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Jn. 8:31-32*

Your Love May Abound

- Entire relationship with God and the Jesus Christ our Savior is based on this love, which is based on obedience to His commands.
- *Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 2Jn. 9-10*
- *We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 1Jn. 4:6*

In* Knowledge & Discernment

- **en in the midst of ; the instrument or means to do*
- Since the only means to know that I love God and my brethren is based on the commandments, and not on my personal feelings, I have to have the knowledge and discernment to make good choices.

Knowledge & Discernment

- “*epi-gnosis*,...precise and correct knowledge; used in the NT of the knowledge of things ethical and divine...” (Thayer, p. 237).
- *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

- *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.

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 being completely rejected.

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*

Things that are Excellent

- “*dia-phero*... To differ like the radiance of the stars (1 Cor 15:41): different glory. In the words of Jesus it is used to indicate a higher value are you not of more value than insignificant birds
- We have to learn how to distinguish between things that might at first appear to be of the same value.
- If it comes from God it has greater value if it comes from men it must be rejected.

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. I 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.