

Paul's Intercessory Prayer

TEXT: Phil. 1:3-11

INTRODUCTION:

- A. PAUL TELLS OF HIS **INTERCESSORY** PRAYER FOR THE PHILIPPIANS.
1. Many of our prayers are **on others behalf**(**James 5:16; Acts 8:24**).
 2. Paul had asked for the prayers of his supporters(**Eph. 6:17-20**).
- B. OFFERED AT EVERY REMEMBRANCE OF THEM(**vs. 3**).
1. Offered especially for them(**vs. 4**).
 2. It was **made with joy**.

I. CONTENT OF PRAYER: THANKS FOR FELLOWSHIP(vs. 5).

- A. **HOW** DID THEY **FELLOWSHIP** PAUL?(**4:14-16**).
- B. GOD WILL **PERFECT THEIR WORK**(**vs. 6; 4:19; 2 Cor. 9:6-11**).
- C. **LOVE** PROMPTS THIS THANKS GIVEN TO GOD(**vs. 7**).
1. The love mentioned here is for them.
 2. But thanks are to God(**vs. 3; 2 Cor. 9:12-15**).
- D. THEIR **FELLOWSHIP** PROMPTED THIS LOVE(**vs. 7b**).
1. Fellowship in bonds – That in Paul's time of need(**2 Cor. 11:24-28**).
 2. Fellowship in defense (**1:16; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Tim. 4:3-4**).
- and confirmation of the gospel(**see vs. 5**).
 3. Fellowship in grace(**Phil. 4:17; 2 Cor. 8:1; 9:8**).
- E. THE GREAT LONGING OF PAUL(**vs. 8**).

II. INTERCESSORY SUPPLICATION: CONCERNING THEIR LOVE.

(Not for him, but for God, which was manifest by their fellowship with him.)

IT IS TO ABOUND:

- A. IN **KNOWLEDGE** – OF GOD'S WILL(**2 Pet. 3:18**).
1. That we may teach others(**2 Tim. 2:2**).
 2. That we may give answer(**1 Pet. 3:15**).
 3. That we may be fully equipped unto every good work(**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).
 4. That we may save our souls(**James 1:21**).
- B. AND **ALL DISCERNMENT** – OR JUDGMENT.
- Aisthesis** – insight, experience, feeling, perception(A&G).
Understanding – ability to perceive.
- WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DISCERNMENT?
1. Ye may **approve** the things that are **excellent**(**4:8; Rom. 12:9; Heb. 5:14**).
 2. Ye may be **sincere** and **void of offence**.
 - a. "Sincere" – **eilikrines**, unalloyed, pure, ...moral and ethical purity(**Vine**).
 - b. "Void of offense" – carries with it 2 ideas:
 - i. The Christian ceases sin(**Rom. 6:17-18**).
 - ii. He has forgiveness when he fails(**1 John 2:1-2**).
 3. Ye may be **filled** with the fruits of **righteousness**.
 - a. Where love abounds, knowledge; where knowledge abounds, work does.
(**Eph. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58**).

- b. Fruits of righteousness are only effective through Jesus
(**John 15:5; Phil. 4:13**).
- c. Herein is the Father glorified(**vs. 11; John 15:18; 1 Pet. 2:9; Matt. 5:16**).

CONCLUSION: WHAT WOULD PAUL PRAY FOR US?

- A. A PRAYER OF THANKS LIKE THIS ONE?
- B. OR LIKE THIS ONE?(**Rom. 10:1**).