

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-05 “That You May Choose What Is Best”

09/28/2025

PHIL 1:9-11 *And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

FROM LOVE TO GLORY & PRAISE...

PHIL 1:10 *So that you may [Display] what is Excellent...*

Paul's prayer for the Believers to “abound in Love” is the foundation for ALL the rest of the desire he has for the Believers

- Abounding in Love will allow them to *display what is excellent...*
- Abounding in Love will lead them to be *sincere and blameless...*
- Abounding in Love will result in *fruits of righteousness...*
- Abounding in Love will bring *Glory and Praise to God...*

NOT GOOD... NOT BETTER... BUT BEST...

Vs 10 *[Display] what is Excellent...*

Although the most common Translations of this phrase choose the word “approve” it doesn't mean that we “evaluate” and so give our approval to the things that are excellent...

Most Commentaries, however, choose to offer a more expressive translation of “make demonstration of” or “to display” showing that the issue is not “approving” but actually “doing” what is excellent...

Excellent... – “Diaphero” – To carry through to a place of excellence... a superlative in comparison to what is good or right...

Therefore, as an essential element of “*Abounding in Love,*” Paul prays that the Believers don't just seek what is acceptable or “good enough” but by “knowledge and discernment” they go forward to what is the “most excellent choice”

As we “do our best to walk in Love” we are faced with choices as to how we respond and how to initiate our love to others...

- We can do what is “good” ... and that is “good”
- WE can do what is even “better” ... which is “good” also
- Paul moves beyond these comparative words to another word altogether: “to press through what could be done to what is the best choice for the situation”
- This doesn't come from OUR observation and estimation BUT from God's Love “abounding in and through us”

SINCERE AND BLAMELESS...

V10b *“and so, to be sincere and blameless...”*

Making the most excellent choice for the situation allows us to be

- “*Sincere...*” – “Heilikrines” – *Judged by the sun so as to discern what is true / pure” - genuine... Opposite of “Hupocrites” – To obscure from judgement / to act / what is “fake”*
 - The Love we display seeks to make the most excellent choice showing that our motive is true / genuine
 - It is easy to “make a show / act / feign Love ... but in the end it reveals itself “as fake” and may be harmful to the object of the “show”
- “*Blameless...*” – *To show there is nothing hidden or concealed for view...*
 - “*Sincere*” is internal and shows motive...
 - “*Blameless*” is external and observable to others...
 - It is not enough to “*desire the best*” or have a right motive if that is not “*acted upon properly*”

These words used together show that Paul's prayer is that the Love he desires to be expressed by the Believers is “NOT a show” but is “genuine in motive,” and “observable in display”