

TOWARD A RADICAL UNITY

TRU-12 "It Is My Prayer..."

09/06/2026

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."

In 1 COR 3:10 Paul referred to himself as a "wise Master Builder." This is reflected in his teaching and this prayer that opens the PHILIPPIANS LETTER.

- His "over-arching" desire is: That their love may "super-abound" with knowledge and discernment... TO the glory and praise of God

That you may abound in love ... with all knowledge and discernment...

That you may approve what is excellent;

SO you may be sincere and without offense;

And [may be] filled with the fruits of righteousness

[All] To the glory and praise of God

- Each step in the petition is centered around a verb: May Abound... May Approve... May Be...; and [May] Be Filled...

Paul brings all of this together as he frames his prayer.

The one "key" to all that he desires is "that they abound in LOVE"

PHIL 1:9A And this I pray... that your love...

"Love" is a frequent subject of PAUL'S LETTERS, and is expressed mostly in "4" categories:

God's Great Love for us... Our Love for God... Our Love for our Fellow Believers... Our Love for those who abuse and persecute us...

This "Love" is by choice... not under the influence of the acts, status, or "worthiness" of the one being "loved"

Vs 9B And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more...

Paul amplifies this love by multiplying the words:

Super-abound... More and [still] More...

In a sense, Paul is saying "that you NEVER reach the place where this Love has been exhausted..."

Vs 9C "With Knowledge and All Discernment..."

No matter what the "world" says, "Love is NOT Blind"... We Choose love KNOWING the cost, and regardless of how it will change things

Godly Love does not ignore pain, hurt, rejection we have experienced... but is willing to Accept... w/o Judgment [1 COR 13:4-7]

Therefore, as an essential element of "Abounding in Love," Paul's Prayer includes the elements of "Knowledge" and "Discernment"

- "Knowledge..." [Epignosis – Refined Knowledge – "to elevate or reveal more about what has been seen / heard / learned..."

Is this 1) Knowledge of God's Character and His Love

OR 2) Knowledge of the need observed?

Why not BOTH? As we receive more and more Knowledge of God's Character...and More knowledge of the Need... We are able to...

- "Discernment..." [Aesthesia - Conscious awareness of what can be recognized and to respond accordingly – ["An]Aesthesia"]
 - ALL... This is not a "superficial awareness" of the need but is based upon the "knowledge" one has gained
 - Our eyes are "open" and our senses are attuned... Our thinking is engaged, and our reasoning is adjusted to what God has revealed

Vs 10A [So that you] "May Approve..." – [Dokimazo – To act upon what has been "Determined" as effective / productive / able to accomplish the goal

The translation as "approve" can lead to a misunderstanding... it is NOT as if we are evaluating whether we like it... agree to it...

- "May..." expresses that THIS is the "goal" of the desired "Knowing and Discernment"
- Better thought of as "may demonstrate having determined" ... It is NOT just that we "Love" as God Loves... BUT that we "determine how to demonstrate" that Love to God and to Others...
- Love that is Not acted upon is NOT True Godly Love...
- Love that is NOT acted upon "appropriately" does NOT accomplish God's desire

THIS is what Paul desires as he prays...

- NOT just once but time and again
- EVERY day and EVERY situation is an Opportunity to "LOVE" in PERSON... OR in PRAYER