

Philippians

(2) Abounding Love

Phil 1:7-11

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God. NIV

Paul's heart for the Philippians...1:7-11

How did Paul feel, in his deepest heart, about the believers at Philippi? 1:3-4

His heart had a smile! He thanked God for them and prayed for them with joy! ☺

And what was Paul's reason for feeling this way about them? 1:7; IThess.1:2-5

Regardless of what he was doing it was forever set that they shared God's grace with him!

What is he really saying here? Rom.15:22-27

Paul had given them the Gospel. They believed, then shared in his ministry of God's grace.

To verify his love for them, to Whom does Paul call as his witness? 1:8; Rom.1:9

The strongest defense he could offer. Paul calls God as his witness.

Because of his love for them what was Paul's prayer? 1:9; Eph.1:16-18; 3:14-19

He prayed that their love might abound more and more, based in knowledge/insight.

Is this 'love of the brethren' something we produce ourselves? IJn.3:14; IJn.4:7; IThess.4:9-10

Yes and No! Love of the brethren is automatic for believers, but it's up to us to abound!

What are some examples of these two actions? see Heb.10:23-25

We have automatic love for Christ and His ministers. But some brethren are hard to love!

What is the 'mechanism' for abounding in love? 1:9b; 3:10; Col.1:9

Based in knowledge (of God's Word) and discernment (depth of insight) about God

And what is the purpose of this discernment? 1:10 see Rom.12:2

It is so that we are able to discern what is best and live pure and blameless until...

If we apply this discernment, what will be the result? 1:11; Ps.1:1-3

We will be filled with the fruit of righteousness through Jesus, to the glory of God!

What is notably missing in Paul's prayer relative to our usual prayers?

Our prayers tend to focus on the physical (health, peace, etc). His prayers are spiritual.

Does that mean prayers for the physical are 'wrong'? Acts 14:8-10; 19:11-12

Of course not! But Paul's priority was on the spiritual growth. Where is yours?

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