**Philippians Chapter 1:9-11** **Treasures From the Book of Philippians**

**Intro:** We are studying the powerful, positive, practical book of Philippians. The book of Philippians was written by the apostle Paul. He was in prison at Rome, chained to a Roman guard, awaiting trial before Nero. Nero hated Christians; and, for all Paul knew, Nero would sentence him to death. For you see, Paul was on trial for being a Christian.

Paul had committed no crime. Paul had violated no law, Paul had done nothing to deserve his imprisonment, other than preach the gospel, start churches, and win people to Jesus.

Paul was several thousand miles from home and away from all friends and family. The church at Philippi heard of Paul's plight and sent an emissary to Paul with a love offering. Epaphroditus (2:25) was the emissary. Philippians was written back to the church at Philippi, in response to their generous gift of money and ministry.

The thing that amazes me about this book is the positive, optimistic, victorious tone in which it was written. In spite of his dreadful circumstances, Paul was still living the abundant, victorious life.

But should we be surprised? This is the same man who, years before, had been brutally beaten and imprisoned in the city of Philippi (Acts 16:25-29). You will remember that after Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into prison they did not whine, did not complain, did not question God, did not whimper, did not contemplate resigning as apostles. Instead they sang hymns, praised God and they prayed; and God shook the prison to pieces through their praise.

Paul doesn't say pray for me, RATHER Paul prayed for the church at Philippi; this was a continual prayer.

**Philippians 1:[9] And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;**

**1. Prayed For Spiritual Abounding Love 9**

The church at Philippi had a lot of love; they loved Paul and the things of God.

**A. Divine Love**

"***And this I pray, that your love may abound***."
Paul is asking God for a divine love to reign in the church at Philippi.
This is not a prayer to stir human love, but the love of God to rule in their hearts!
***Rom 5:5 the love of God is shed abroad in your hearts.***
***1 Cor 13:13 now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.***
***Gal 5:22 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace….*** Everything flows out of love.
***1 John 4:7 for love is of God***
Every believer possesses divine love and Paul is asking for a greater expression of love.
**John 13:34-35**

**B. Decisive Love**

The word for love is "***agape***."
***John 15:13 Greater love hath no man than this that a man would lay down his life for his friends.***
***John 3:16 For God so loved***

This love is the will born out of love and the choice born out of love.
This love is not based on impulse or emotion.
"I love you because you do something for me."
"I love you because I feel something for you."
The love of God is a choice to love the unlovable and the unlovely.
The love of God will love no matter what they say or do, I love them.
You must decide to love, **Matthew 6:44**.

**C. Dynamic Love**

"***Abound yet more and more***."
The Greek word is "Perisseuo" which is an overflowing, cascading like a waterfall.
Paul is praying for a growing, progressing, expanding and enlarging love.

It is a love that you may have to work at and commit to, **Ephesians 5:1-2**.
Rather than having a critical spirit it is a compassionate spirit.

**D. Discerning Love**

"***In knowledge and in all judgment***."
The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.
Our love is controlled or guided by TRUTH. Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
Paul is praying for a love under control. Not a blind out of control love, see **Ephesians 5:3**.

The word judgment is discernment or insight.
Love without discernment can do more harm than good.

- A parent that says I love my child without correction has a love with no discernment.

**Philippians 1:[10] That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;**

**2. Prayed For Spiritual Awareness 10**

Paul prays for this love that the church may "***approve things that are excellent***."
To approve is to test.
We must know what is of God and what is of the flesh.
1 Cor 11:19

We must evaluate and assess what is vital. Paul is praying for the church to make right decisions.
The eternal if first and the earthly is secondary.
Matthew 6:33

The word "***excellent***" is evaluating that which is good and that which is better.

Paul prayed that the people would make decisions to live in sincerity and live without offence.

To be "***sincere***" is without impurity or without mixture.
A person can be sincere BUT without the love of God they are sincerely wrong.
Sincerity is an inner righteousness.

To be "***without offence***" is to be blameless which is an outer righteousness.

There is the Man that the world sees.
There is the Man that our Friends see.
There is the Man that we ourselves see.
There is the Man that God sees.

Paul is praying for all of the above.

**Philippians 1:[11] Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.**

**3. Prayed For Spiritual Abundance 11**

"***To be filled with the fruits of righteousness***."
First we must be empty of the wrong things to be filled with the right things.
By their fruits ye shall know them, Matthew 7:20.
These fruits are by Jesus Christ, who indwells the believer.
Paul is praying for good works and for the church to glorify and praise God.