

**J**  **Y**

*from the inside out*

# Paul Addresses the Letter

<sup>1</sup>Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Paul and Timothy, **servants** of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the **saints** in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup>Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the **bishops** and **deacons**: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Paul's Prayer

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Philippians 1:1-11

# Problems in the church in Philippi

- Lack of unity (Phil 2:2)
- Lack of humility – put self first (Phil 2:3)
- Murmuring and arguing (Phil 2:14)
- Those who are dogs, evil doers, Christian Pharisees (Phil 3:2)
- Those whose minds are set on earthly things causing them to live as enemies of the Cross of Christ (Phil 3:18-19)
- Worriers (Phil 4:6)

Do we find these problems in our denomination, church, friendships, homes?

# So Paul Prepares to Pray...

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No problem can be fixed if the solution is not from God.

# Preparation to Pray: Step 1

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>  
constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers  
for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel  
from the first day until now.

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Ways we know of that they were partners with Paul:

- Lydia supported them (Acts 16:14-15)
- Themselves (2 Cor 8:1-5) “first gave themselves to the Lord and then by God’s will to us”
- Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25-28)
- Financial gift in Prison (Phil 4:15-18 )

# Preparation to Pray Step 1

**Step 1:** Get joyful over the other person – find great delight in them - by remembering the times you have partnered together for the sake of Christ

# Preparation to Pray: Step 2

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- Phil 1:21: For to me, living is Christ

# Preparation to Pray: Step 2

<sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to **completion** by the day of Jesus Christ.

- Rom 8:29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son

# Preparation to Pray: Step 2

**Step 2:** Get joyful (take great delight) over the person you are praying for - not because you see who they are right now - but because you see through them to Christ who lives within them and you see who they are to become.

# Prepare to Pray for Others: Take Great Delight in the Other Person...

**Step 1:** Remember the good works you have already partnered together to do for the sake of Christ

**Step 2:** Look forward to who they will become in Christ

# Prepare to Pray for Yourself: Take Great Delight in Yourself...

**Step 1:** Remember the good works **you** have done for the sake of Christ

**Step 2:** Look forward to who **you** will become in Christ

# The Prayer

⁹ And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight

# The Prayer

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Why Paul doesn't pray that they will receive love?

- I John 3:9 “Those who have been born of God... God's seed (*sperma* = DNA) abides in them” God's DNA is love.
- I John 3:1 “See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are.

# The Prayer

9 And this is my prayer, that your love may **overflow more and more** with knowledge and full insight

Overflow = bubble forth like a stream

- **John 4:14** The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.
- **John 7:37-39** Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'

But I don't feel like a fountain of overflowing love for God and others...

Stop trying to love.

Instead concentrate on being loved by God. It is not a matter of discipline or control. It is a matter of letting his love fill us. Then we will have love for others.

**This is love from the inside out.**

# The Prayer

9 And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with **knowledge** and **full insight**

- Knowledge = recognition = know who God is = “And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God” John 17:3.

- Insight = Discernment = Perception = know God’s will

**Real love** has knowledge and discernment.

**Fanatic love** has neither knowledge nor discernment.

# The Outcome of the Prayer

<sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Outcome is what James called “Good Works”.

# Back to the problems in the church in Philippi...

- Lack of unity (Phil 2:2)
- Lack of humility – put self first (Phil 2:3)
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The over arching problem was that they had love, but not knowledge and discernment.

JOY

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