

Title ideas:
The Joy of Knowing His
Love!

Philippians 1:8-11

Scriptures:
Romans 5:5 - Now hope
does not disappoint,
because the love of God
has been poured out in our
hearts by the Holy Spirit
who was given to us.

⁸ For God is [△]my [□]witness, how greatly [□]I long for

3144 -

1971 – deeply
desire

[□]you all with the [♡]affection of Jesus [✝]Christ.

4698 -
compassion

Notes:
Paul's affection for the Philippians
found its source in Christ. Human
affection can be fickle, easily
offended, and based on emotions.
Paul loved them with the love God
had given him for them ([Rom. 5:5](#)).

Paul prayed for the Philippians
because he loved them. Paul loved
the Philippians because he prayed
for them. If you have someone in
your life that is hard to love – pray
for them. The harder you pray for
them the more you will love them.

Scriptures:

Matthew 22:36-40 -
Teacher, which is the great
commandment in the law?"
37 Jesus said to him, " 'You
shall love the LORD your
God with all your heart,
with all your soul, and with
all your mind.' 38 This is the
first and great
commandment. 39 And the
second is like it: 'You shall
love your neighbor as
yourself.' 40 On these two
commandments hang all
the Law and the Prophets."

John 15:13 - Greater love
has no one than this, than
to lay down one's life for
his friends.

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands,
love your wives, just as
Christ also loved the church
and gave Himself for her...

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still

26 – 'agape'

4052 – have more
than enough,
excessive,

more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

1922 – personal
recognition

144 – have capacity to
understand - "perception
(discernment) n. — the
mental ability to
understand and
discriminate between
relations; especially as
acquired through
experience."

Notes:

Paul will pray for three things that
are more important than their daily
needs.

1. Abounding Love
2. Knowledge and Insight
3. Assessing what is best

"Paul prayed that love would
overflow up to God and out to each
other in limitless abundance."
(Hughes, 2013) page 40

'in knowledge' - Jesus taught us that
loving God and others is how we
best please God (Matt. 22.36-40). It
is a modern saying, 'Love is blind!' True
love cannot be ignorant but
based in knowledge of the person
who is to be loved.

"A virtuous man may be ignorant,
but ignorance is not a virtue. It
would be a strange God Who could
be loved better by being known less.
Love of God is not the same thing as
the knowledge of God; love of God is
immeasurably more important than
knowledge of God; but if a man
loves God knowing a little about
Him, he should love God more from
knowing more about Him: for every
new thing known about God is a new
reason for loving Him." Frank Sheed
(Hughes, 2013) page 40

Paul prays for this 'knowledge' in his
introduction in all four of the prison
epistles.

"Christian love comes from the work
of the Holy Spirit bringing the
revelation of Christ through the
Word of God." (Hughes, 2013) page
41

'discernment' = insight. Practical
insight that informs conduct –
practical conduct. We might also
think of this as common sense. This
is something that is sorely lacking in
the world and in the church.

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 10:32-33 -
Give no offense, either to
the Jews or to the Greeks
or to the church of God,
33 just as I also please all
men in all things, not
seeking my own profit, but
the profit of many, that
they may be saved.

¹⁰ that **you** may approve the things that

1381 – examine,
try out, regard as
worthwhile,
regard something
as genuine or
worthwhile

are excellent, that **you** may be sincere and

1308 – more
valuable. superior

1506 – pure, wholesome –
'sincere adj. — being honest
and straightforward in attitude
and speech (the absence of
affectation or pretense).

without offense till the day of Christ,

677 – not causing
one to stumble,

“Christian growth was not an end in
itself but had an eye to the grand
goal of standing before Christ.”
(Hughes, 2013) page 43

Notes:

How do we define what is excellent?
Compare it to God's perfect
standard. This means we have to
examine everything in our lives to
determine if it is excellent.

“...to give one's entire support to
that which through testing has
proved to be essential and vital.”
(Lightner, 2004) page 1321

'approve the things that are
excellent' – Life is a continuous
series of choices. The most basic is
the choice between right and wrong
or good and evil. As children of a
good God, we should always choose
the good and right. Sometimes in life
the choice is between two good
things. What Paul is praying for here
is that they would be able to
examine those choices and then
choose what is excellent or best. As
believers, we should never settle for
good enough – seek God's best.

The good is enemy of the best.

Illustration: the girl and her pearl
necklace.

“Affectation” - The act of taking on
or displaying an attitude or mode of
behavior not natural to oneself or
not genuinely felt.

'be sincere' has the sense of 'purity'.
The Greek word is made up of two
words which mean 'sun' and 'to
judge'. This indicates that it is tested
by the light of the sun.

“It denotes transparency of heart, a
heart with pure and unmixed
desires.” (Hughes, 2013) page 43

'without offense' = not causing
others to stumble. We ought to live
out our faith in a way that doesn't
cause others to stumble in their faith
(1 Cor. 10:32). The prayer is that
they would not stumble into sin, nor
would they cause anyone to stumble
into sin.

If we are faithful to God, someone
will be offended. If I am faithful to
preach God's Word, those who
reject God's Word will be offended.
If I stand on the truth, like 'A man
cannot be a woman and a woman
cannot be a man' someone is going
to be offended.

'the day of Christ' – Paul's prayer is
focused on the goal of growing in
faith and love -seeing Jesus face-to-
face. This is a reference to the
rapture of the Church.

Scriptures:

Galatians 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.

John 15:5 - I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

John 15:8 - By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness

4137 -

2590 - outcome

1343 - what is right, justice,

Notes:

What are the 'fruits of righteousness'? These would be the fruits that come from a right relationship with God, through Christ, and by the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). The fruit of righteousness is godly deeds - doing those things that please God.

which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise

1391 - splendor, brightness, shining, radiance, greatness, the state of being wonderful,

1868 - commendation - 'an expression of approval or commendation.'

'being filled with the fruits of righteousness' - A tree that bears fruit is alive. A tree that bears much fruit is a blessing to the gardener. Jesus taught that much fruit is possible but only in connection to Him (John 15:5; 8).

"The goal of all Christian activity is to bring recognition and homage to the divine perfections of a redeeming God." (Lightner, 2004) page 1322

of God.

[Top of Section](#) [Top of Chapter](#)