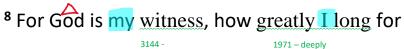
Title ideas: The Joy of Knowing His Love!

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.



1971 – deep desire



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-toface. 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

- 2590 - ou

1343 – what is right, justice,

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.' 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.

'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



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