

21/06/09 (pm) - Series on Philippians - Sermon 9

A Pastor's Prayer (2)

Phil. 1:9-11 (Text: 1:10-11)

***Theme:** Why love characterised by knowledge and discernment is to be preeminent in the life of the Christian.*

The Purpose of Paul's Prayer— Why he Prayed it (1:10-11)

Paul gives four reasons.

**So that the Philippian Christians
might:**

1. discern what is best (1:10a).

Word for
able to discern
means
put to the test.

Word for
what is best
means both
what is good not bad,
and *what is superior in quality.*

In everything the Philippian Christians did Paul wanted them to discern not only between right and wrong (good and bad) but also between good and better.

*As Philippians 1:9 characterises
the life of a Christian, that
Christian will have a keener and
more delicate sense of what is
right in specific situations of life.*

2. be pure and blameless *in preparation for the Day of Christ* (1:10b).

Not praying for perfection!

Pure - concerns purity of inner person (motives). *Cf.* Ps. 86:11.

Blameless - concerns purity of behaviour. Not stumbling or causing others to stumble. *Cf.* Job 1:8.

Day of Christ - Second Advent.

Big challenges here!

*As far as we know our own hearts
are all our motives pure?*

*As we look at our own lives are we
stumbling, or causing others to
stumble?*

Do we live expecting Jesus' return?

3. be filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Christ (1:11a).

As a Christian becomes more Christ-like, the fruit of the Spirit will be more evident in his/her life, cf. Gal. 5:22-23; Matt. 5:6.

*The Lord does the filling but the
Christian does the hungering and
thirsting.*

*Think of the impact on our families,
in our workplace, where we have
recreation, in our community if we
were filled with the fruit of
righteousness that comes through
Christ!*

4. bring glory and praise to God (1:11b).

When a Christian becomes more Christ-like, he/she brings glory and praise to God.

Conclusion—In Light of His Coming

*I do not think that in the last 40
years I have ever lived one
conscious hour that was not
influenced by the thought of the
Lord's return.*

Lord Shaftesbury

[19th century social reformer]

The Apostle Paul lived in light of
Lord's return!

The Philippians were to live in light
of the Lord's return!

We are to live in light of the Lord's
return!

*Let us spur each other on so that
we may not be ashamed at His
glorious appearing!*