

GROWTH IN GODLINESS

PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11

Text: Philippians 1:11

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¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Introduction:

Paul's desire for the spiritual development of the believers under his care was seen not only in his preaching, teaching, and writing, but also in his prayer life. In Ephesians he assured his readers:

Ephesians 1:16-18

¹⁶ Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; ¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: ¹⁸ The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Later in that letter he stated:

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

His great desire and prayer for the Colossians was that they “walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

In this text we see five things that Paul prayed for on behalf of the Philippians their growth in godliness.

1. LOVE

Philippians 1:9

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

A. Godly love is divine

Paul asked God to provide the Philippians with more love that only comes from Him.

B. Godly love is decisive

This love is not based on feelings, but is a conscious, intentional choice to be kind.

C. Godly love is dynamic

It has the ability to abound and always increases in character and humble service.

D. Godly love is discerning

2. EXCELLENCE

Philippians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Having made known the priority of love in verse 9 Paul continues his discussion regarding “Growth in Godliness.”

A deep love for God results in a desire to obey the Lord because we desire to please Him not just out of duty.

Obedience that’s motivated by love not only becomes the believer’s supreme objective but also their supreme pleasure and satisfaction.

Note the word approve. That word means to discern.

To know or discern the things that is excellent.

3. INTEGRITY

Philippians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

A third area of growth is the area of integrity.

To have this integrity is to be sincere without offense.

1 Corinthians 10:32

³² Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:

Note the example of Paul:

Acts 23:1

¹ And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

Acts 24:16

¹⁶ And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

2 Corinthians 1:12

¹² For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

2 Timothy 1:3

³ I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

4. GOOD WORKS

Philippians 1:11

¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Paul refers to these works as fruits of righteousness.

The fruit that should be produced in the lives of the believer are found in Galatians.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Again we must remember the fruit of righteousness comes through the Lord.

5. THE GLORY OF GOD

Philippians 1:11

¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

The supreme motive and results of the life of godly love, excellence, integrity, and good works is for the glory and praise of God.

