



A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS

LESSON 2 PHILIPPIANS 1:7-11

1. What made a difference for you this past week from the lesson or lecture on **Philippians 1:1-6**?

2. Pray and ask God for a heart to learn from Paul's tangible love for the Philippians; then read **Philippians 1:7-11**. Which aspect of his love stands out to you and why?

3. a) From **Philippians 1:7**, how would Paul's words have encouraged the Philippian believers?

- b) When have you received encouragement from someone who was in an "imprisoned" situation?

4. a) What strikes you about Paul's love language as you read **V8**?

- b) Where would you like to experience this kind of deep affection from others, or grow in this kind of love for others?

5. a) What are the additional ways Paul expressed a similar endearing love for the Thessalonian believers?
- **1 Thessalonians 2:7b-8**

 - **1 Thessalonians 2:11-12**
- b) What relationship with another believers could look different if you truly loved them as Paul did?

6. Paul moved from expressing his love for people to praying for them in **V9-11**. List what he specifically prayed for them.

7. Paul prayed that love will grow in knowledge, which leads to discernment of what is best in **V10a**.

a) What is discernment?

b) Where do you, or your church, need discernment to not only do what is right but what is *best*?

8. From **V10b**, what do you think it means to be pure and blameless? How would you answer someone who asks how you can be pure and blameless when you still sin? (See **1 John 2:1**)

9. a) In **V11a**, Paul prayed for believers to be filled with the fruit of righteousness. What do you think this means? What might this look like in your life? (See **Galatians 5:22-23a**)

b) How might you be trying to produce fruit apart from being rooted in Christ?

-
10. Paul ended by stating the ultimate goal of his prayer in **V11b**. What is that goal, and how could this re-orient your prayers?
11. What has been the most convicting or encouraging insight from this Lesson, and how will that help you to *press on in confidence*?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Paul's prayer life was an overflow of his love for Christ and the church, and lays a Biblical foundation for our prayers. What do you learn about prayer from these verses?

How to pray? **Matthew 6:5-6**

Who to pray for? **Matthew 5:44, 19:13a, Acts 12:5**

Why pray? **Matthew 26:41, James 5:16**

What to pray for? **John 17:15, 20; Ephesians 1:17-19 and 3:16**

When you don't know how to pray? **Romans 8:26**

2. What is one way this study on prayer encourages you in your prayer life?
3. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: **Philippians 1:9**
- b) Based on Paul's prayer, take some time to reflect on where you'd like to ask God for growth:
- Knowledge that grows my love for Him and others
 - Love that prays eternally minded prayers for others
 - Discernment on what is best (with my words, my finances, my time)

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST