

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Philippians 1:9-11--February 26, 2023



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## **Sermon Recap:**

### **A Pastoral Prayer**

#### **I. The Prayer (v.9)**

- This is a prayer, where each idea builds a foundation for the next.
- It teaches pastors how to pray, but also how each believer should pray for one another and live pure, sincere lives for the glory of God.

##### **a. Abounding Love**

- "agape" love displayed in charity and sacrificial giving.
- It is unconditional, not expecting compensation or recognition.
- It is never complete as Paul prays that it would "abound more and more." We press on in love.

##### **b. Discerning Knowledge**

- Knowledge of the Scriptures and of the person of Jesus Christ that comes from an intimate relationship with Him.
- Paul is praying that we are mature enough in our faith to love others and discern what is right based on knowledge of the Word and Savior.
- We should be careful to not drift to one extreme or the other, but to live and minister with both love and truth.

#### **II. The Purpose of the Prayer (v.10-11a)**

##### **a. Excellence**

- Paul prays that we have this love and discerning knowledge so that we choose what is excellent in the eyes of the Lord.
- We pursue excellence that is defined by the character and Word of Christ.

##### **b. Purity & Righteousness**

- This pursuit of excellency produces pure and holy living as it effects our choices and attitudes.

#### **III. The Outcome of the Purpose (v.11b)**

##### **a. Chief End of Man**

- As we are made holy (sanctified) by pursuing excellence that we discern with knowledge and love we are transformed from our sinful selves to one who resembles Christ.
- God is glorified in this transformation.

## Discussion Questions:

- What are the key building blocks of this prayer?
- How do they form a foundation for each other?
- Which is more important: love or truth?
- How is it an encouragement to know that our love for one another is never complete?
- What is the chief end of man?
- How is God glorified in our salvation and sanctification?
- What effect would it have on the church if Paul's prayer is answered?

## Application:

- Pray that love would abound more and more with knowledge and all discernment for yourself, your family, your children, and your church.
- Is there an area of your life (family, church, work, etc.) where you fail to show love and grace for the sake of truth?
- Is there an area of your life (family, church, work, etc.) where you compromise truth for the sake of love and tolerance?
- Discuss with a brother or sister how you might grow in love and truth so that you can display both in that area.
- After reflecting in prayer, ask yourself, "Am I growing in love?" Consider practical and spiritual ways that you may abound more and more.
- Identify ways that your holiness may be hindered by pursuing things that are not excellent in the eyes of God. What can you do to change those choices?

