

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for May 19-20, 2001

"Praying For the Essentials"

Philippians 1:9-11

Dale Whitehead

We are in a spiritual battle that requires us to pray for one another (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Intercessory prayer needs as we mature in Christ to go beyond simply being a duty to become a passion that we are compelled to lovingly perform (Philippians 1:3-8; Philippians 1:9-11).

What do we learn from Paul's prayer for the Philippians? A love that abounds in real knowledge and all discernment will lead to a life filled with the fruit of righteousness.

What Paul Prayed For:

Paul is praying that their love might abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment.

The word for love that Paul chooses to use in this verse is the word "AGAPEI" which refers to the love of God. God's love serves unconditionally. God's love is given and is extended in serving others irregardless of any extenuating circumstances (Romans 5:8).

Paul certainly experienced this dynamic of abounding love during his life (Romans 9:1-5; 1 Thessalonians 2:7-12).

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We need to pray that our love would not only abound but that it would be guided by real knowledge and all discernment.

The primary sense of "real knowledge" (EPIGNOSIS) is not so much a "knowledge about" something, but rather the kind of "full" or "innate" knowing that comes from experience or personal relationship with the Lord and His Word.

The word "discernment" (AISTHESIS) is used only one time in the New Testament. In secular Greek it denotes moral understanding based on experience, hence something close to "moral insight."