

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for May 26-27, 2001

"Praying For the Essentials"

Philippians 1:9-11

Dale Whitehead

Why did Paul pray what he prayed?

First of all he prayed what he prayed in order that they might "approve the things that are excellent."

The word "approve" (DOKIMAZO) means to "put to the test, examine."

The word "excellent" (DIAPHERO) comes from a Greek word that means "to differ." In this context it would mean that we are to discover those things which differ by surpassing others.

Paul is praying that their love would abound more and more in real knowledge and all discernment so that as they approve or test all their options they would be able to identify the option that would surpass all other options in value.

Hopefully you are here this weekend because you could not think of a better way for your love of God to be expressed at this moment in time than to be sitting here with your brothers and sisters in Christ praising God and seeking to learn and apply His Word.

Paul wanted the Philippians not only to approve the things that were excellent but to consistently choose the things that were excellent and this consistent choosing would lead them to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.

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Paul certainly did not take his eventual standing before the Lord holy and blameless for granted even though he was an apostle of Christ (Philippians 3:7-14).

I believe that the primary reason Paul prayed what he prayed was because he did not take the Philippians good standing before the Lord for granted.