Sunday Sermon Notes					
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What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?



# **Paul's Intentional Prayer**

# Philippians 1:9-11

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

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

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

If you could as God for anything (and you can), for what would you ask Him? This passage challenges us to think intentionally about our prayer requests. Rather than praying "whatever comes to mind," in writing his prayer, Paul shows great intentionality and purpose. Notice the key word in this deep prayer: love, knowledge, judgement, excellent, sincere, without offence, fruits of righteousness, glory and praise of God. The rich themes and depth of content are a challenge to us today. May our prayer times better reflect our desire for things of eternal value and the kingdom of heaven as Paul's prayer does!

#### Part 1 – Intentional Prayer

# Read Philippians 1:3-11; 1 Timothy 2:1-8

1) In what ways does Paul show intentionality in his prayer?

2) What different "kinds" of prayer does Paul list in 1 Timothy 2?

3) How *practically* can you follow this instruction in 1 Timothy?

### Part 2—Abounding Love

# Read Philippians 1:9; 1 John 4:7-12

1) In what ways should our love abound more and more? What does that mean?

2) According to 1 John 4 in what ways is the love of God instructive for us?

3) In what ways has your love grown in the past year?

#### Part 3—Approving Excellence

# Read Philippians 1:10; Romans 2:17-18

1) What are some excellent things that could help produce purity in your life?

2) What tool did the Jews use (and so may we) to help approve what is excellent?

3) How can excellence produce Christlikeness in us?

#### Part 4—Filled with Fruit

### Read Philippians 1:11; Psalm 1

1) Who produces the fruit of righteousness and why is this important?

2) According to Psalm 1 what are some characteristics of a fruit bearing righteous person?

3) How is Philippians 1:11 a fitting end to Paul's prayer?