

Praying With Paul

#3 ~ Philippians 1:3-11 ~ *Knowing What's Best*

Philippians 1:3-11

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Do we know what's best? Do we always do what is best?

Thanksgiving first... again!

- with joy

Confidence rightly placed

- in God
- in the grace of God
- with a long term view - until 'the day of Christ'

Paul's prayer

- that their love may abound more and more...
 - o this love is not unaccompanied
- ...with knowledge and all discernment
- What might love *without* knowledge look like?
- What might knowledge *without* love look like?

Why does Paul pray that their love may abound with knowledge and discernment?

- SO THAT...
 - they may approve what is excellent... what is best.

- Confidence should not lead to complacency
 - No room for mediocrity here!
 - Gospel 'best practice'

- AND SO...
 - be pure and blameless for the day of Christ

 - ...FILLED with the fruit of righteousness
 - the fruit which IS their righteousness?
 - OR
 - the fruit which COMES FROM their righteousness?

 - ...to the glory and praise of God

Knowing what's best., and doing it., is not a 'law' matter., it's a 'love' matter.