

Theme: Paul prays that we would grow in love and discernment so that our lives will bring glory and praise to God.

## I. Intro – Learning by Watching/Listening

- A. Sometimes we learn by formal instruction
- B. Sometimes we learn by simply watching
- C. Story of me working on my little tractor
- D. We can learn by listening to Paul pray

## II. A Look At Paul's Prayer

- A. That love may abound more and more (v9)
  - 1. Love is already there, but must grow
  - 2. Terms of overflowing – abound, more
  - 3. Related to disunity again?
- B. Love grows in knowledge and discernment (v9)
  - 1. Love is not blind! – sappy emotionalism is!
  - 2. To love we must know
    - a. Are we commanded to love this? (not sin!)
    - b. Know the object of our love more to love more
    - c. Know things which hinder love (in us or them)
  - 3. To love we must discern

- a. Word often related to knowledge in Proverbs
  - b. What is true love in this situation?
- C. Result – so that able to discern what is best (v10)
  - 1. Discern - δοκιμάζειν - critical examination; test
  - 2. Rom 12:2 – same phrase - test and approve
  - 3. Best – literally different; could mean excellent
  - 4. With know, discern (v9) – moral philosophers
- D. Result – pure & blameless on day of Christ (v10)
  - 1. Another hina clause – in order to (not and)
  - 2. Both words used by moral philosophers
  - 3. Free from blemish; avoid obstacles/don't put obstacles
  - 4. into/until Day – eschatology affects behavior
- E. Final result on judgment day – filled; praise
  - 1. Judgment day in view (day of Christ v10)
  - 2. Filled with fruit of righteousness (v11)
    - a. Justification (comes thru Christ; judgment day; 3:9)
    - b. Sanctification (ethical growth v10; 2:12-13; Christ produces)
    - c. Both probably included here – can't separate
  - 3. Justification, sanctification, glorification (v10,6)

4. Glory and praise of God (v11)

???  
1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

### **III. Applying the Word**

A. Do we pray like Paul does?

1. Is this the way I pray for myself and others?
2. Do I pray for love, obedience, God's praise?
3. Do my prayers reflect different values?

B. Are we growing and abounding in love?

1. Do I abound in love – overflowing?
2. Am I vulnerable enough to love?

C. Are we growing in discernment of what is best?

1. Not only good and evil, but better and best
2. Do I know the Word to know the difference?
3. Do I not only know but choose the best?

D. Do we live for God's praise and glory?

1. Can only do this through Christ – am I in Him?
2. Am I God centered – or me centered?

Paul's Prayer for the Philippians

Philippians 1:9-11  
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