

DO YOU HAVE A DESIRE FOR PRACTICAL RIGHTEOUSNESS?

(Philippians 1:8-11)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. THE SALUTATION TO THE PHILIPPIANS (1:1-2)

III THE PRAYER FROM PRISON (1:3-11)

A. Paul called God to the WITNESS STAND (1:8)

1. In the 1st century, in that culture a _____ was the end of any doubt or dispute. (Rom. 1:9; 2 Cor. 1:23; 1 Thess. 2:5, 10)

2. Only Paul and God knew how _____ he _____ (*epipotheo*) to see their faces.

* What was the object of Paul's desire, was it their money?

3. The Apostle not only _____ for them with his own tender mercies but "*with the _____ of Jesus Christ,*" i.e., Christ living in and through Paul. (Gal. 2:20)

B. Paul prayed for the Philippians' SPIRITUAL GROWTH (1:9)

1. The Apostle's desire was that the saints in Philippi would not have _____ love, but rather a love (*agape*) that would continually _____ its banks.

2. In what two ways did he qualify this agape?

a. "*in knowledge*"--

b. "*and all discernment*"--

C. Paul prayed for the Philippians to make PROPER CHOICES (1:10)

1. The Apostle wrote, “*that you may approve the things that are excellent;*” this means that the believer needs to make decisions based on _____, and God’s holy _____, not based on our culture’s ever changing viewpoint.

* What is telling about the tense of the verb “*approve*”?

2. The purpose clause informs you that you are to make proper choices so that you are _____, and you do not cause others _____ by giving offense.

* We are asked to make wise decisions, and to be sincere and without offense, but for how long?

D. Paul prayed that the Philippians would participate in the SPIRIT FILLED life (1:11)

1. In this chain of requests from the prayer of the Apostle for the saints in Philippi he desired that they be “*filled with the fruits of* _____ (plural),” which would certainly include the Fruit of the _____ (singular). (Gal. 5:22-23)

* What other “*fruit*” might this include? (Rom. 1:13; 6:22; Col. 1:10; Heb. 13:15)

2. The _____ of this “*fruits of righteousness*” is only found in a Person, namely the _____ . (John 15:1-5)

3. The _____ of this fruit bearing is found in the prepositional phrase, “*to the _____ and _____ of God.*”

* How can this be applied in your own life?