

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

“A BOLD PRAYER FOR BELOVED SAINTS”

Discuss

When you pray for your friends, for what kinds of things are you most likely to pray? In this passage of Philippians, the heart of Paul bursts forth with a prayer for friends he dearly loves. Is it like the prayers you pray? Or different? Let's see what we can learn from a 1st-century prayer that is also the inerrant and infallible Word of God.

- 1) The first request in Paul's prayer is that the love of the Philippians would "abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight." (v. 9)
 - When playwright and composer Lin-Manuel Miranda accepted the Tony award for "Hamilton," he read a poem he had written that included the words, "Love is love is love is love. . . cannot be killed or swept aside. Now fill the world with music, love, and pride." Miranda spoke those words filled with emotion a day after the shootings in Orlando.
 - ◇ What is love as conceived by most people in our culture, including Lin-Manuel Miranda?
 - ◇ What kind of love does Paul want the Philippian saints to have?
 - ◇ Are these two loves the same or different?
- 2) Paul wants them to have this kind of love so that they would be able to "discern what is best" and "be pure and blameless until the day of Christ." (v. 10)
 - What are the dangers of love without discernment and the dangers of knowledge without love? (See Rom. 12:1-2 and 1 Cor. 13:2)
 - We say things like "I'm no saint!" and are generally all too aware of our weaknesses and failings.
 - ◇ What did Paul mean, then, when he prayed for the Philippians to be "pure and blameless?" Did he think they could achieve a state of sinless perfection in this life?
 - ◇ If being "pure and blameless" is our desire for ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ, what will we be doing?
- 3) Paul's final request in this prayer is that the Philippians would be "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God." (v. 11)
 - What is the fruit of righteousness? Is it inward fruit (like the fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23) or outward fruit (good works)? If you have time, see James 2:14-18 and Ephesians 2:10 as you consider your answer.

DATE: May 12, 2019

SPEAKER: Chad/Aaron

SERIES: Philippians

PASSAGE: Phil. 1:9-11

Pray

HEAVENLY FATHER,

May we be like trees planted by streams of water, yielding fruit in season, with leaves that don't wither.

May we remain in the love of Jesus and be students of your Word, so that our love for you and for others may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.

Help us to discern what is best so that we live wisely. Help us to grow in grace and holiness so that we bring no dishonor to you.

We are so grateful that you are at work within us. May our gratitude govern our hearts and minds so that we avoid grumbling or complaining. And may we shine like stars for you in a crooked world. In the name of our Savior, Jesus, amen.

- based on Ps. 1:3, John 15:9, Phil. 1:9-10, 2:14-15

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Resurrection Presbyterian Church
in Knoxville

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Peter and Janet serving in a
sensitive area