



“Prayer Pursues Abundance”

It is remarkable that in all of his writings Paul’s prayers for his friends contain no appeals for changes in their circumstances.

- **Tim Keller**

Primary Text: Philippians 1:9-11

1. Pray (2 mins)

Pause. Acknowledge you are about to open God’s word.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate His word.

2. Warm-Up (20 mins)

Read Philippians Chapter 1

- When reflecting on the message this past Sunday, what is the one thing that most resonated with you?
- What have we learned about the book of Philippians (author, theme, purpose)? Where in the Bible did our author meet Jesus?
- From memory, can anyone give us a general summary of how we arrived at this current text? What has Paul taught us in his letter to the Philippians up to this point?

3. Illuminate (30 mins)

On the reverse side of this page you will find our text. Use this page to circle/underline/connect.

- After reading through this text, have you noticed any of our themes re-surfacing?
- In verse 9, Paul suggests increasing attributes. What attributes does he name specifically and why is this increasing important? How in Philippians has Paul instructed us to increase in these attributes?
- What do you think Paul is talking about when he says, “so that you may approve what is excellent?”
- Paul seems to always urge us to prepare for the “day of Christ.” Why?
- Paul states that others have become more confident in the Lord because of his imprisonment, including the guards! How has Paul accomplished this amazing feat? (Reflection: Is your life causing anyone to become more confident in the Lord?)
- The truths of the Bible are meant to be shared. Given the opportunity, could you now explain this text to someone else in your own words? Anyone brave enough to try it now?

4. Pray (10 mins)

Rather than take prayer requests, let’s bring our requests to God through prayer. Let’s talk to Him.

The Bible says...

- Matthew 11:28 - Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- 1 Peter 5:7 – cast all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.
- John 16:33 – In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Philippians 1:9-14

⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

[The Advance of the Gospel]

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.