

Date: December 9, 2018, 8:15AM and 10:15AM

Sermon: *“Paul Prays for Our Beauty”*

A Study in God’s Word Based on Philippians 1:9-11

As I study Paul’s epistles, I am increasingly convinced that his goal in the ministry was to combat spiritual ugliness and to call forth spiritual beauty in the lives of his fellow Christians and in the churches where they gathered. He doesn’t use the term “beauty” very often in his writings, but when he talks about the need for love or unity or peace or self-giving service among the brethren, beauty is definitely what he has in mind. A rose by any other name is just as sweet. Paul is out to develop a race of beautiful people, God’s beautiful people! We see this Pauline priority in Philippians especially, with this morning’s text (1:9-11) being a case in point. Here in the Apostle’s prayer for the Philippian church, we are struck by:

I. The BEAUTY Paul Seeks IN Us. – vv. 9-10

II. The BLESSING Paul Seeks FOR Us. – vv. 10-11

Two great realities underlying this prayer:

A. The RETURN of Christ – v. 10

B. The GLORY of God. – v. 11