



## Philippians 1:8-11

### Be Ready

*(CJB) <sup>8</sup>God can testify how I long for all of you with the deep affection of the Messiah Yeshua. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer: that your love may more and more overflow in fullness of knowledge and depth of discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you will be able to determine what is best and thus be pure and without blame for the Day of the Messiah, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Yeshua the Messiah – to the glory and praise of God.*

Love, knowledge, discernment, pure, blameless, righteousness

Recap up till now in Philippians:

- Intro (Steve) Founding of the church
- 1:1-2 (Raymond) The suffering of Paul
- 1:3-7 (Pete) Identity and purpose should mirror God
- Today – Being ready for Christ

Deep Love – Paul’s love and affection for the Philippians ran deep. He described how he longed after them all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. (Phil. 1:8 KJV)

How can we take this example and examine our own love for others?

“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the children of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I *am* the Lord.” Leviticus 19:18 NKJV

We are to love our neighbor as ourselves. According to Motyer, *Paul...does not speak to them as people who lack love and need to ask for it, but as people who possess love and need to make it grow. At Philippi, love showed itself to be of the very essence of the new nature given to the believer...Love was their new nature in Christ.* The idea is love being central to a believer when they accept Christ, and that through the growth within us we manifest this love toward others.

Our walk with Christ always points back to having Christlikeness.

Who is your neighbor? Think of who your neighbors are and how you love them.

Royal Law - “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself,*” you do well. James 2:8 NKJV

Loving others has to start with God. We must first have a vertical relationship before we can have the horizontal relationship.

Seven steps to preparing for His return:

- i. A deeper love for your neighbor causes
- ii. More thought about Him and less thought about ourselves which causes
- iii. More focus on the Royal Law (loving God and our neighbor) which allows us to
- iv. Develop and use our moral muscles and moral compass which allows us to
- v. Gradually become better and better at determining the righteous choice in different situations which causes us to

- vi. Become more and more like Christ so that
- vii. We are ready when He returns.

*Knowledge is used twenty times in the New Testament, always referring to knowledge of the thing of God, religious, spiritual, theological knowledge. - Motyer*

We must be careful in how we gain our knowledge or we can be taken off course.

Our path to the Fruit of Righteousness includes:

Pure = Inner self

Blameless = Outer self

*Pure is a quality that should pervade the innermost parts of the Christian's mind and heart. Not even the all-seeing eye of God can discern anything offensive in inner life and character. Blameless, by contrast, means both 'without stumbling' and 'giving no offence. - Motyer*

<sup>1</sup>"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup>looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

Course Corrections:

- The Word
- Prayer
- Focus on God
- Check-Ins
- Conviction by the Holy Spirit

Transformation doesn't just happen overnight. We must run with endurance because it's a long race. We must strive to be filled with the righteousness of Christ. All the things we do in Christ help keep us on course.

Application:

- ✓ The being in Christ gets us to the doing in Christ.

Paul, in this passage, is urging the Philippians to develop a moral compass. To work towards righteousness. We don't always understand what righteousness is but we understand what a compass is. **Keep checking your compass! Be ready!**