

The Furtherance of the Gospel

Philippians 1:9-14

Rich O'Toole

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I. Knowledge and discernment. *Philippians 1:9*

The Apostle Paul was not telling the Philippians to have a blind love but rather a love based upon the _____ of God.

- Paul prayed that the Philippians would mature, and their maturity would be evident, _____ through their *love*, growing more and more through *knowledge* and *discernment*.

"A discerning person will acknowledge the _____ of God's Word."

(gotquestions.org)

II. Sincerity without offense. *Philippians 1:10-11*

Paul said biblical *love* is a *love* that has *knowledge and all discernment*, so it can *approve of the things that are* _____.

- *"Paul wanted his friends to grow in discernment, in being able to 'distinguish the things that differ.' The ability to distinguish is a mark of _____."* (Warren Wiersbe)

III. Paul's arrest furthered the Gospel. *Philippians 1:12*

- The Lord allows trials in our lives to _____ us spiritually.
- The Lord allows trials in our lives to _____ us.
- The Lord allows trials in our lives to _____ Himself faithful.
- The Lord's purpose for us during trials is to _____ us into the image of Christ. *Romans 8:29*

When Paul was in Philippi in *Acts 16*, the Holy Spirit broke him out of prison, so God is able. While in jail in *Philippians 1*, the Lord had Paul _____ *Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians*.

IV. Jailhouse Gospel. *Philippians 1:13-14*

Paul's chains enabled him to _____ people he could never have reached if he were not under house arrest.

- These guards were a captive audience and Paul would have never had this _____ if he wasn't under house arrest.

There was also another group of people Paul was able to reach because of his arrest: the Roman _____ in Caesar's court.

- Paul's boldness to preach the Gospel while under arrest gave the other Christians around him _____ and boldness to speak about Jesus as well. *Hebrews 10:23-24*

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

1. Read *Philippians 1:9*. Discuss the biblical definition of the words love, knowledge, and discernment. *How does the Christian definition of these words differ from the world's definition? Why are these attributes so important in the life of a Christian? Proverbs 8:8-9, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, 1 Timothy 6:20-21, James 1:5*
2. In the sermon we were asked the question, *"How does a Christian determine what godly knowledge is?"* How would you answer that question? Discuss the terms knowledge, wisdom, and discernment and what they mean.
3. Read *Philippians 1:10-11*. Wiersbe said, *"Paul wanted these believers to grow in discernment to be able to distinguish things that are different. Having discernment is a mark of maturity, being filled with the fruits of righteousness."* What was he speaking of? *John 15:1-5, Galatians 5:19-25*
4. Read *Philippians 1:12*. Discuss the four points in point III. of the sermon note sheet that discuss why the Lord allows trials in the life of believers. *Genesis 50:19-20, Romans 8:28-29*
5. Read *Philippians 1:13-14*. *How did Paul's arrest further the Gospel?* (see the fill-ins in point IV. of the sermon note sheet) *Acts 24-26, Romans 7:18*
6. Discuss the practical application of the sermon. *Psalms 56:8-9, Ephesians 2:10*