

# Memory Verse

**Philippians 1:9**

**And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with [real] knowledge and all discernment.**

GRACELIFE



CHURCH

The image features a circular teal graphic centered on a background of weathered, greyish-brown wood planks. The word "PHILIPPIANS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font across the center of the teal circle. Below the text, a thin white horizontal line spans the width of the teal circle.

# PHILIPPIANS

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# PHILIPPIANS

## Part 3

Praying for Abounding and  
Discerning Love

## **We have learned about...**

- History of the city
- Founding of the assembly in Acts 16
- The variety of people in this church
- Paul was very thankful for them and their support
- Paul was also thankful for their partnership in the gospel

## Philippians 1:9-11

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

## A. 1:9a – It is My Prayer

“Ancient letters between friends, family members, and business associates frequently included a brief statement that the person sending the letter prayed for the prosperity and health of the recipient. In a letter from the second century A.D. a young soldier named Theonas writes home to his mother Tetheus and after the letter’s introduction says, ‘Before all else I pray that you are well; I myself am well and make obeisance on your behalf to the gods here.’”

*Zondervan Illustrated Backgrounds Commentary, Romans-Philemon, Vol. 3 (349-350).*

## A. 1:9a – It is My Prayer

Paul gave two main prayers for them:

1. That their **love would grow**, in *verses 9-10*.
2. That their **character would grow**, in *verses 10-11*.

Remember, Paul held them in his heart, and loved and longed for them with the affection of Christ: 1:8.

His prayer was based in love...

## B. 1:9b – That Your Love may Abound More and More

There are different kinds of love.

The word here for love is “*agape*.” This is the ultimate love in which all other love should be based. It is God’s love. This is self-sacrificial love, to provide what is best and needed for another. It is giving of oneself out of great personal cost to you.

*NASB Study Bible* - “Real love requires growth and maturation.”



## B. 1:9b – That Your Love may Abound More and More

“*Abound*” refers to something over and above, something that exceeds the normal, to go beyond the expected measure.

He also wanted this for the church in Thessalonica:

*1 Thessalonians 3:12* – and may the Lord cause you to increase and abound in love for one another, and for all people, just as we also *do* for you... - *4:10*, *2 Thes. 1:3*.

## C. 1:9c – With [Real] Knowledge and All Discernment

“*Knowledge*” is the first aspect on which love is built. Without knowledge there can be no lasting love.

2 Peter 3:18 says to grow in the grace and **knowledge** of Christ.

“*Knowledge*” in 1:9 is **epignosis**. It means precise and correct knowledge, or specific knowledge about something or someone, in an ethical and divine sense.

## C. 1:9c – With [Real] Knowledge and All Discernment

“*All*” is connected to “*discernment*.” Discernment is the second aspect on which love is built. This is the only place this word is used in the NT.

It has to do with ethical and moral understanding based on the mind and senses in a social situation. The KJV translates it “*judgment*.” It is also connected to *verse 10*.

# C. 1:9c – With [Real] Knowledge and All Discernment

What is discernment?

# C. 1:9c – With [Real] Knowledge and All Discernment

What is discernment?

It means to **judge!**

## C. 1:9c – With [Real] Knowledge and All Discernment

*1 Corinthians 13:6* – [Love] does not rejoice [or take joy] in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth!

Love and truth are not against one another, contrary to popular belief! Love has, as one of its core areas, **discernment!** We need discernment! This is not just learning what is right and wrong, but what is best compared to what is good. It is learning the truth to expose the lies.

## C. 1:9c – With [Real] Knowledge and All Discernment

*We have perverted love and wonder why we are in the mess we are in...*

**We reject the truth and then  
redefine the truth to suit our  
sinful lives.**

## D. 1:10a – So that You may Approve what is Excellent

The word “*approve*” refers to something that is tested, examined, scrutinized, or proved, to see if it is genuine or not.

Silver and gold were tested in the ancient world to see if they were **pure**.





## D. 1:10a – So that You may Approve what is Excellent

Love discerns and in the Greek, this word is *continuous*! They, and we are to *continually test everything*.

*1 John 4:1* says to test the spirits to see whether they are of God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

The word “*excellent*” refers to something tested to see whether it is lawful or unlawful, good or evil.

## E. 1:10b – In Order to be Pure and Blameless for the Day of Christ

Purpose clause: *that*, *so that*, or *in order to be...* with the goal or purpose of, or looking toward the intended result.

The word translated *pure* or *sincere*, carry the idea of something tested, rightly judged, or found pure when judged by the sun's full light. Light exposes what is in the dark, and what is good or bad in something or someone, literally and figuratively. See *John 3:19-21*.

## E. 1:10b – In Order to be Pure and Blameless for the Day of Christ

Paul's desire was for them to be pure, or sincere, and blameless, not causing offense, not led into sin, or leading others into sin.

If someone accuses you of something, *it won't stick!*

They were to live in a way that looked forward to the return of Jesus. This leads to **purity**: *2 Peter 3:10-18*.

## F. 1:11a – Filled with the Fruit of Righteousness that comes Through Jesus Christ

NASB: ...*having been filled* – brought to the full effect, make full, or... **cram**. Though Paul is referring to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Jesus, he refers to the future in the present with the way they were to live.

Fruit is the result of something. The result or fruit of the previous verses is *righteousness*.

## F. 1:11a – Filled with the Fruit of Righteousness that comes Through Jesus Christ

Righteousness through Jesus! *First*, in Christ we are righteous! We have been given the righteousness of Jesus Himself: *2 Corinthians 5:21*. *Second*, his desire for them was to live a life of love and righteousness based on Christ.

Look at Jesus, and Paul: *1 Corinthians 4:16, 11:1*.

# G. 1:11b – To the Glory and Praise of God

This is the *reason* and *result* of everything...

To point to Him, praise Him, and  
give Him glory!!

We cannot do it without Him!