

“Our Prayer for a New Year”

Phil. 1:9-11

Introductory Consideration: What do you want in the new year?

- What do you want in terms of your *relationship* with the Lord this year?

⇒ *We need the Lord to create within us holy _____!*

- In what ways do you need to grow *spiritually* in the coming year?

⇒ *We need the Lord to _____ us what we truly need and to _____ this in us!*

What we truly need as we begin a new year is prayer. We need prayer for _____, and we need to pray for _____, that God would do for us this year what we cannot do in our own strength!

Philippians 1: 9-11

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.

Initial Observation: The prayer has both an immediate and long term focus.

⇒ The first part of the prayer (1:9-10a) is focused on the _____ work of sanctification in believers and is centered on their ever increasing love.

⇒ The second part of the prayer (1:10b-11) anticipates the _____ of that work in glory.

Prayer for the Ongoing Work (1:9-10a)

1. The sanctifying work of Christ in believers causes their love to *grow*.

Phil. 1:9a—*And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more...*

“love” →

“abound” →

2. That love involves an increased *understanding* of the things of God.

Phil 1:9b—*...with knowledge and all discernment,*

“knowledge” →

“all discernment” →

3. Ever increasing love for God and one another results in believers being able to *recognize* the things to which they are to dedicate themselves.

Phil. 1:10a—...so that you may approve what is excellent,

“approve” →

“what is excellent” →

Prayer for the Completed Work (1:10b-11)

1. What Christ has *secured* and what He will *complete* on His return!

Phil. 1:10b—...and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

“pure & blameless” →

2. Christ is the *source* of all of the fruit in the lives of believers!

Phil. 1:11a—...filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ,

“filled” →

3. All of this is accomplished by God for His own glory!

Phil. 1:11b—...to the glory and praise of God.

Praying for Ourselves & Our Church in 2019

- *Pray that the Lord will cause our love for Him and for others to _____!*
- *Pray that this love will grow as we study of His _____!*
- *Pray that the Lord would enable us to _____ this knowledge in our everyday lives!*
- *Pray that God would give us the ability to _____ and _____ the best things.*
- *Pray that we would _____ of the soon return of the Lord Jesus!*
- *Pray that the Lord would cause the _____ of righteousness to be produced in us!*
- *Pray that God would _____ Himself through us and our church!*