**LOVE AMONG THE SAINTS**

Philippians 1:7-11

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**INTRODUCTION**

On Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, he spent time in Philippi. It was there that he began his ministry in Europe after the Holy Spirit had prevented him from going eastward into Asia. We cannot know the reason God went to Europe first, but we see that it was definitely God’s plan. Without doubt, God had something special reserved for Asia in these latter days. Regardless, the Philippians continued to support his ministry. Today, we continue our study and see Paul speaking of his love and continuing his prayer for them.

1. **PAUL’S EXPRESSING LOVE FOR THEM (vv. 7-8)**
2. He defended his strong **feelings** for all of them.
3. When he was free to preach the Gospel, they shared with him.
4. Now that he is in jail, they continued to share with him.
5. He informed them that they were in his **heart**.
6. Some people are so special to us that we could never forget them.
7. Some people are so precious to us that they are forever in our hearts.
8. He assured them that he desired to **see** them once more.
9. He loved them with the affection of Jesus Christ.
10. He expressed it so strongly that he called God as his witness.

*Paul expressed his great love for them. This is no sentimental “falling in love with love”; rather, it is the realization of how much others mean to us!*

1. **PAUL’S CONTINUING PRAYER FOR THEM (vv. 9-11)**
2. He prayed that their **love** would continue to mature.
3. He desired that their love would grow in *quantit*y—abound.
4. He desired that their love would grow in *quality*—depth.
5. He prayed that their **spiritual** **awareness** would continue to mature.
6. He desired that their discernment would recognize what is best.
7. He desired that their discernment would lead to purity and blamelessness.
8. He prayed that their **righteousness** would continue to mature.
9. The source of that righteousness is always Jesus Christ.
10. The result of that righteousness is always to glorify and praise God.

*In Paul’s love for them, he desired to see them grow in their love and in other significant areas of their spiritual lives. That prayer is the same prayer every pastor has for his congregation.*

**CONCLUSION**

Paul believed that God would complete His work of salvation that He had begun in them. He desired that they might mature in the fruit they produced for God. Although it is all a work of God’s grace, it requires our cooperative effort for God to work His work in and through us. Will YOU allow God to work in you & bring you to spiritual maturity?

*“Give me a faithful heart, likeness to Thee, that each departing day henceforth may see some work*

*of love begun, some deed of kindness done, some wand’rer sought & won, something for Thee.”*