

July 23, 2017 (MESSAGE)
The Greatest Filling in the World
Philippians 1:8-11

Introduction:

- To live life to the fullest
 1. Some look for a “b_____ list” experience
 2. Some look for re_____
- The apostle Paul’s prayer for the Philippian Christian can be summarized: *I pray that you have the greatest filling in the world.*
- Daily seek to be filled in this way to experience the height of life.

O_____ filled with Christ’s Love (9,10a)

- Paul prays that the Philippian Christians’ *love abound more and more in real knowledge and discernment.*
 1. Love – refers to a kind of love that is void of s_____ (Jn 3:16; 15:13)
 - a. This is a love that c_____ to act for the good of another regardless of feeling.
 - b. This is the love of C_____
 2. Abounding more and more
 - a. Picture yourself holding a container and water pouring into it and never stopping – it s_____ over and the effects are seen all around
 - b. Christian love is to be like that – overflowing from us to those all around us.
 3. Real knowledge and discernment
 - a. Real knowledge – the Greek word does not refer to knowing facts but to e_____ something fully
 - 1) Most of the time the object of this word is given in the Bible (sin, God, truth, Jesus)
 - 2) Here no specific object is given – may refer to all our experiences (if so, Paul’s prayer is that Christ-like love will overflow in all our experiences)
 - b. Discernment (other translations – insight, judgment)
 - To determine what is r_____
 - Showing Christ’s love can do no w_____

- The result of being overfilled with Christ’s love is that we *approve the things that are excellent* (NIV – discern what is best; NLT – really understand what matters)

1. Paul chooses an action word that has to do with the t_____ of metals. A hot fire would separate the alloys from the desired metal to make it genuine.
 - a. The metaphor therefore means that we being overfilled with Christ’s love makes obvious what is excellent or best
 - b. Compare to Romans 12:2 of “proving” God’s will to be good, acceptable and perfect.
2. It is e_____ to fill your life with hatred, jealousy, self-pity, etc (the result is making life more difficult and less meaningful)
3. It is d_____ to fill your life with Christ’s love like loving the unlovable, forgiving those who have wronged us, etc (the result is making life more meaningful and less difficult)

E_____ filled with Christ’s Righteousness (10b,11)

- Most versions see the second part of verse 10 as a purpose for being overfilled with Christ’s love. However, the very same word that introduces the first object of Paul’s prayer, introduces this clause and therefore is the second object of Paul’s prayer – *that you be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.*
 1. The word *sincere* (other translations – pure) literally means “judgment by the s_____” – pictures light shining on an object and exposing it. So Paul is praying that everyone’s Christian character be obvious to the world.
 2. The word *blameless* (KJV – without offense) literally means “not being a stumbling b_____.” – we need to be sensitive to one another
- How is this accomplished? *By being filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ.*
 1. The Greek tense of the word filled gives the idea of being ever filled.
 2. We are to be filled not with our own righteousness but with C_____’s righteousness.

● Many times Christians may s_____ with rules and regulations and think that following them makes them righteous.

1. This is the ancient mistake Jesus spoke against (Luke 18:12)
2. People may think that fasting, praying, going to church, giving, reading the Bible, etc. makes them spiritual (see Is 64:6).
3. We must not m_____ ourselves but Christ.

● Let us start with Christ – we must do only what Christ does, allowing Him to l_____ through us (Gal 2:20)

1. People will see Christ in our deeds, because He will be working
2. This will be to the glory and praise of God, not ourselves.

The greatest filling in the world is to be overfilled with Christ's love so it reaches all around you and ever filled with Christ's righteousness so that God is praised and glorified.