

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

## SERMON OUTLINE

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**JANUARY 22, 2017**

**#-3 Series: Philippians – “Christ-The Believers Joy”**

**Today’s Message:**

**I Am Praying For You”**

### **Philippians 1:9-11**

Last week we saw how “*Thankful*” he was for these dear brethren in *V-3*. Now today we see how he is praying for them.

The apostle had a threefold burden upon his heart for the saints at Philippi, and it is for these he prays.

#### **I. Prayer for a Fuller Expression of Love-V3**

Look how he begins in *V-9*, “*and this I pray...*” The ESV version says; And it is my prayer...” Just what is he praying for? Love is the first and foremost of all Christian characteristics (*Galatians 5:22*), and the greatest of them all (*1 Cor. 13:13*).

The word “*abound*” is the verb form of the noun *abundance*. To have an abundance of something is to have an exceeding measure, above the ordinary. In his prayer for abounding love, Paul gives to us a key as to its source. Christian love is controlled by the Holy Spirit through the truth, that is, through the Word of God “*knowledge*”.

#### **II. Prayer for a Finer Evaluation of LifeV-10**

In order to approve the thing that is excellent, we must be able to distinguish between what is good and what is best and there must be a standard with which we can harmonize our choice.

Most commentators suggest that the phrase “*approve things that are excellent*” means *to test things that differ*. The word “*sincere*” comes from two Latin words, *sine* (meaning *without*), and *cera* (meaning *wax*), without wax.

A reason is now given why Christians should be sincere: namely, that we might be “*without offence*.” The believer, like his Bible, is to be wholly devoid of any false mixture. He is to be sincere, guileless, without offence "till the day of Christ."

### **Prayer for a Fuller Experience of Righteousness V-1**

Right living is the fruit of right learning; proper deportment of proper doctrine; correct behavior of correct belief. The word "fruit" has been defined as that which is produced by the inherent energy of a living organism.

Metaphorically, the word “*fruit*” is used of the Christian's attitude and actions, that outward expression of an unseen Power working within. (*Matt. 7:15-20*). The Christian is appointed to bear the fruit of righteousness. Jesus said in (*John 15:16*).

The word “*fruit*” occurs eight times in this chapter, and it is associated closely with our relation to Christ and His expectation of us. The branches on a vine are intended to bear fruit. (*John 15:1-2,5*). The glory of a vine is its fruit.

The apple tree neither counts its own apples nor boasts in their quality: it merely produces them. “*Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples*” (*John 15:8*).