

## Philippians 1:9-11

Growing Full

*Intentional prayer ...*

### I. Spiritual Growth

- A. Enlarged Hearts
- B. Godly Brains
- C. Holy Lives

### II. In Light of Christ's

- A. Work
- B. Example
- C. Return

### III. Has An End

- A. God's Glory
- B. Full Enjoyment

*... tangible results*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. What is the summary of God's commandments?
2. We will never love God and neighbor perfectly in this life. But is it possible to grow in our love? How?
3. How can the Bible help us to make right choices in life?
4. Who is the perfect example of love and wisdom?
5. Will there ever be a time when Christians love the Lord and each other perfectly? If so, when?

## Abounding Love

Is your love sufficient? Sometimes we would like to convince ourselves that it is. But if we are honest with ourselves we will admit that our capacity to love is limited and sometimes what is supposed to be love grows into a cold blob of something else. But the fact of the matter is, living love grows, and should grow healthily in two general directions: toward God and neighbor. Christians have the inside track to understanding what real love is because we know God, Who, according to John "IS love" (1 John 4:8, 16). We also know Jesus who displayed the perfection of love by laying His life down for sinners (1 John 3:16). We also have the Word of God that directs us in the ways of true, godly, Christ-like love. When God saved us, He instilled love in us, and yet, that love must mature and develop. Paul understands that, so he makes that a top priority in his prayers for the Philippians. Like them, we need prayer for this too, but we also have to recognize effort is required on our part. How willing are we to learn how to love more, and more, and more? That's the idea - our love is to keep expanding as we grow in the Lord. The more we grow in love for the Lord the more we will appreciate His will and His ways as revealed in His Word. This will bear fruit in our lives: our loving desire to obey Him will increase and we will increasingly display sacrificial love toward one another. As we will see in the text, growth in genuine love will not only enhance our love for God and others, it will help us to be wise and discerning in the way we live our lives and the way we interact with people in our lives and the world around us.