

L3 | Approving Things That Are Excellent | Php. 1:1-11

I. Intro/Review:

- Fellowship in the Gospel
 1. Address toward the bishops and deacons
 2. Gratitude for them
 3. Fellowship
 1. In heart
 2. Defense and Confirmation of the Gospel
 4. Meet Confidence
 5. Longing and Joy
 6. Prayer Request

II. Preview:

1. The Request (:9)
2. The Fruit (:10)
3. The Goal (:10)
4. The Means (:11)

III. Sermon:

- What do you pray for those that are mature in Christ?
- What do you pray for those that you have fellowship with?

**And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;
{Philippians 1:9}**

1. Prayer Request - Exhortation

- "And this I pray" - v4
- "that your love may abound yet more and more"
 - "in knowledge and" - full knowledge
 - Comes from the word of truth
 - "in all judgment;" - discernment
 - The exercise of that knowledge in life
 - The act of discerning; also, the power or faculty of the mind, by which it distinguishes one thing from another, as truth from falsehood, virtue from vice; acuteness of judgment; power of perceiving differences of things or ideas, and their relations and tendencies.

- To identify truth from that which is false

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;
{Philippians 1:10}

2. The Fruit (:10)

- **"that ye may approve things that are excellent;"**

1. "that ye may approve" - 23x's used

- 13c - to demonstrate; to assent to as good, regard as good; to try, test something.
- 14c - regard or assent to as good or superior; commend, endorse, confirm formally especially in reference to the actions of authorities or parliaments.
- Translated
 - Luke 12:56 - "discern"; Luke 14:19 - "prove"
 - Rom. 1:28 - "...not like..."; 2:18 - "approvest the things"; 12:2 - "prove", 14:22 - "he alloweth"
 - 1 Cor. 3:13 - "fire shall try"; 11:28 - "...a man examine"; 16:3 - "...approve by letters"
 - 2 Cor. 8:8 - "...to prove the sincerity of your love", :22 - "oftentimes proved"; 13:5 - "prove your own selves"
 - Gal. 6:4 - "every man prove {his own work}"
 - Eph. 5:10 - "proving what is acceptable unto the Lord"
 - 1 The. 2:4 - "allowed of God"; 5:21 - "prove all things; hold fast that which is good"
 - 1 Tim. 3:10 - "these also first be proved"
 - Heb. 3:9 - "fathers...proved me"
 - 1 Pet. 1:7 - "tried with fire (faith)"
 - 1 Jn 4:1 - "but try the spirits"
- **"things"**
 - That are excellent
 - Excellent compared to what?

2. "that are excellent"

- One word - "diaphero"
- Translated
 - Matt. 6:26 - "ye not much better than they"
 - Matt. 10:31 - "more value"
 - Matt. 12:12 - "man better than a sheep"
 - Mar. 11:16 - "carry"
 - Luk. 12:7 - "more value"
 - Luke 12:24 - "ye better than" (fowls)
 - Acts 13:49 - "published" (read context)
 - Acts 27:27 - "were driven up and down" - all one word in Greek

- Rom. 2:18 - "more excellent"
- 1 Cor. 15:41 - "one star differeth from another star in glory"
- Gal. 2:6 - "it maketh no matter"
- Gal. 4:1 - "differeth"

- Excellent compared to what?
- The word signifies there are things not excellent and Paul is praying they would judge what things are

- The work of the Spirit of God
 - Rom. 8
 - 1 Cor. 2

 - Spiritual to spiritual
 - Earthly to heavenly
 - Temporary to eternal
 - Excellent to not excellent
 - Ultimately - Christ (Php. 3)
 - Law to Grace
 - Flesh to Spirit

- Things Excellent
 1. Being in prison or not is not one
 2. Being rich or poor is not
 3. Gospel Furtherance
 - In spite of prison
 4. Christ Magnified in Paul's body
 - By life, by death
 5. Depart - abide in the flesh
 6. Let everything be done
 - Not through strife or vainglory
 - In lowliness of mind, let each esteem other better than themselves
 7. Look not on own things - every man also on the things of others
 8. Do all things without murmurings and disputings
 - Sons of God - light
 - Nation - perverse, crooked
 9. Law loss - Christ gain
 - Php. 4 - things mentioned

3. The Goal (:10)

- **"that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;"**
 1. **"that ye may be sincere"** - pure (2 Pet. 3:1)
 - Pure, unmixed, unadulterated; also free from pretense or falsehood
 - 1 Cor. 5:8 - "...unleavened bread of sincerity and truth."
 - 2 Cor. 1:12 - "...that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom,"

- 2 Cor. 2:17 - "...but as of sincerity, but as of God,"
- 2 Cor. 8:8 - "...to prove the sincerity of your love."
- Eph. 6:24 - "...our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."
- Tit. 2:7 - "...pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,"

2. "without offence"

- having nothing to strike against; not causing to stumble, not led into sin or leading others there
- late 14c., "hurt, harm, injury, pain;" also "breach of the law, wrongdoing; transgression against God, sin;" also "the causing of displeasure, act or fact of wounding the feelings of or displeasing another;" also "displeasure, annoyance, umbrage," from Old French *ofense* "offense, insult, wrong" (13c.) and directly from Latin *offensa* "an offense, injury, affront, crime," literally "a striking against," noun use of fem. past participle of *offendere*

3. "till the day of Christ;"

- "the day of redemption" - Eph. 4:30
- "the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" - 1 Cor. 1:7-8; 1 The. 5:23
- "the day of the Lord Jesus" - 1 Cor. 5:5; 2 Cor. 1:14
- "the day of Christ" - Php. 1:10, 2:16; 2 The. 2:2
- "the day of Jesus Christ" - Php. 1:6
- Includes
 1. "catching up of the body of Christ" - Php. 1:6, 10, 2:16
 2. "day of redemption" - Rom. 8:23-25, Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30, 1 Cor. 15:51-53, Php. 3:21
 3. "judgment seat of Christ" - 1 Cor. 1:8, 2 Cor. 5:10
 4. "receive reward of the inheritance in heavenly places" - 1 Cor. 3:13-14, Col. 3:24, Eph. 1:3, 2:6, Col. 1:20
 5. "judgment upon those who persecuted the body of Christ while on earth" - 1 The. 1:6-10, 2 The. 2:2
- Purpose
 - Eph. 1:4 - "...that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love:"
 - Eph. 5:27 - "That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."
 - Col. 1:22 - "...to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in His sight:"
 - Breaking of the law is the knowledge of sin (transgression), then the fulfilling of the law is righteousness

- Rom. 13:8-10; 8:1-5
 - Love & holiness - 1 The. 4:1-9
 - 1 Tim. 1:5
- Jesus Christ

**Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.
{Philippians 1:11}**

4. The Means (:11)

- **"being filled with the fruits of righteousness"**
 - Perfect tense - action has already been completed - that is "filled"
- **"which are by Jesus Christ,"**
 - "which" - fruits of righteousness
 - "by Jesus Christ"
- **"unto the glory and praise of God."**
 - Eph. 1
 - Ultimately to the glory and praise of God
 - 1 Cor. 15

IV. Conclusion:

- The fruits of righteousness by Jesus Christ has filled the Philippians
 - He begun a good work in them
 - Christ in them
- Paul is confident of the maturity of this good work (worthy) in them
- Praying they abound more and more
 - "in knowledge and all judgment"
 - "approve the things that are excellent"