

# PHILIPPIANS



JOY IN  
CHRIST

## Sermon Notes

### Tethered Love Grows Best

#### Philippians 1:8-11

1. Read **Philippians 1:8; Acts 16:6-40; Philippians 4:10,15**. What events in the missionary journey of Paul and his companions led to such a deep and abiding affection for the church in Philippi? How was the Holy Spirit involved in redirecting Paul's steps? Gathering believers among the Gentiles? Planting the church in Philippi? Growing a concern for Paul and his ministry? Reflect on your own life. How has God directed your steps toward those for whom you have a deep affection?
2. Read **Philippians 1:9**. When Paul prays that the Philippians' love would "abound more and more", he qualifies this by praying that their love would also be "tethered" to knowledge and discernment. Read **Colossians 1:9; Titus 1:1**. What does Paul mean by knowledge? Charles Spurgeon once said, "Discernment is not a matter of simply telling the difference between right and wrong; rather it is telling the difference between right and almost right." Do you agree with his definition? If so, why is this an important tether for our love? Where is the danger in attempting to show love to others that is untethered from knowledge and discernment? Can you think of examples?
3. Read **Philippians 1:10; Matthew 22:37-40**. How is the Great Commandment a helpful litmus test when attempting to live out Philippians 1:10? The Great Commandment is actually two commandments in one. Which portion of the Great Commandment is primary? Which is secondary? Where is the danger in reversing this order? Much of the world adopts the "Golden Rule" as their philosophy for loving others. How is doing so apart from the rest of the Great Commandment dangerous?
4. Read **Philippians 1:11; Isaiah 61:10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 3:9**. To whom does our righteousness belong? How is this a helpful reminder when attempting to love others whose views and opinions may frustrate us? How does it aid us in behaving in a way that is "sincere and blameless" (verse 10)? Read **James 2:13-18**. How does James enumerate the differences between earthly and heavenly wisdom/discernment?