

I. Kingdom Hearts Are Intertwined with Others (7-8)

A. The church-planter was an intercessor (3-5) I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.”

B. The apostle was a prophet (6) - “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.”

C. The thinker was a feeler (7a) - “It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart...”

D. The prisoner was a liberator (7b) - “...for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.”

E. The soldier was a lover (8) - “For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.”

II. Kingdom Understanding Matures with Time (9-10a)

A. Paul prayed for their love to grow (9a) - “And it is my prayer that your love {agape} may abound more and more...”. Greek indicates that Paul was praying for their love to experience a meteoric, massive growth

B. Paul prayed for their vision to sharpen (9b) - “...with knowledge and all discernment...”
Knowledge - big picture foundational. Discernment - specific, precise insight; skilled perception

C. Paul prayed for them to hold to Kingdom values (10a) - “...so that you may approve what is excellent...”

III. Kingdom Commitment Comes with Rewards (10b-11)

A. What we retain (10b) - “...and so be pure {pure-hearted, sincere} and blameless...”

B. What we remember (10c) - “...for the day of Christ...”

C. What we reproduce (11a) - “...filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ...”

D. What we relish (11b) - “...to the glory and praise of God.”