

Christian Growth

Phil 1: 9-11

Christian Growth

- While there are many themes in N.T.....
 - There is an overlying aspect
 - That is “growth”
 - Spiritual growth
- Note the following....
 - II Peter 1: 5-10
 - “applying all diligence”
 - NIV....”make every effort to add to your faith”
 - 9 things mentioned

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- It is not a coincidence the fruit of the Spirit
 - Lists 9 characteristics of “fruit” (Gal 5: 22-23)
 - It also not a coincidence that Phil 1: 9-11
 - Starts out with “love”
- Then listing the following in sequence
 - “may abound”
 - “real knowledge”
 - “discernment”
 - “sincerity”
 - “blameless”

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- This sequence reminds of Vs 6...He that hath..
 - Will “perfect” it or “mature” it or “complete” it
 - Reiterated in Eph 1: 15-17
 - Reiterated again in Col 1: 9-12
- Paul starts out this passage with.....”this I pray”
 - It is insightful that Paul does not pray for material things
 - Rather his concern is for spiritual growth

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- Vs 9....spiritual growth starts with “love”
 - The Greek word here is “agape”
 - The love that comes from God (Gal 5: 22)
- Paul is laying out the foundation of Christian living
 - I Cor 13: 1....if I have not love....
 - I Cor 13: 13...the greatest of these is.....
 - Col 3: 14.....bond of unity
 - John 13: 35....they will know that.....

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- Questions....
 - Why is Paul praying “that your love abound?”
 - Can such love come from within ourselves?
 - Can such love come only from the Holy Spirit?
 - If the answer is “Yes” how does that love differ from human love?
 - It is not based on emotions, feelings or appearances
- Rom 5: 1-5
 - Because the love of God “has been poured out”
 - “Within our hearts”

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- Essential that we understand
 - The love of God is an act of His will
 - John 3: 16-17
 - It is the love of choice
 - It has a two-fold aspect in our lives
 - I choose not to do such and such because of the love of God
 - I choose to do such and such because of the love of God
- When Jesus was asked which is the greatest commandment
 - What was His answer....

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- Love God with all your heart.....
 - What will happen when that takes place?
- And then you will love your neighbor.....
 - Does that incorporate feelings?
 - Parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10: 30-37)
 - Not necessarily.....but....(Vs 33)
 - But it might mean you do all you can to meet their need (Vs 35)
- Vs 9.....still more and more

Christian Growth

- This is the on-going process of growth
 - Eph 3: 14-21; 4: 20-24; 30-32; 5: 1-5
- The love of God is defined in our lives
 - By our adherence to the Word of God
 - Never will you find an exception
 - If you love Me....you will keep My commandments
 - James 1: 22-25
 - I Peter 1: 22-23
- Biblical love is not wishy-washy or lukewarm

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- Biblical love....
 - Flees from sin
 - Flees from that which is wrong
 - Focuses on that which only build others up
 - Phil 4: 8
- Vs 10.....so you may approve the things that are excellent
 - No guess work.....
 - The roadmap of joy in Christ

Good and Gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- I approach the throne of glory
Nothing in my hands I bring
But the promise of acceptance
From a good and gracious King
- I will give to You my burden
As You give to me Your strength
Come and fill me with Your Spirit
As I sing to You this praise

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice
- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- O what grace that You would see me
As Your child and as Your friend
Safe, secure in You forever
I pour out my praise again
- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King

Good and Gracious King

- Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious
Good and gracious
Holy, holy, Lord Almighty
Good and gracious King (repeat)

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome, I lift my voice
To the King in need of nothing
Empty handed I rejoice

Good and Gracious King

- You deserve the greater glory
Overcome with joy I sing
By Your love I am accepted
You're a good and gracious King
You're a good and gracious King
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