

3. PAUL'S PRAYER: Philippians 1:8-11

by Brett Baggett on Sunday, June 14th, 2020

Theme: "Paul's prayer for the Church at Philippi reveals the basics, fruit, source, and goal of our sanctification."

Q. Let me ask you, what do you pray for? Paul rarely prays for anything akin to circumstances yet he always prays for Christ-likeness!

Q39. What is sanctification? A. Sanctification is a work of God's free grace whereby we are 1) renewed in our whole person, 2) after the image of Jesus, and 3) are enabled more and more to die to sin and 4) live to righteousness.

- **In short, Sanctification is the process by which God makes us less like Adam and more like Jesus.**

Mark 4:26-28 ²⁶ And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. ²⁷ He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. ²⁸ The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. ²⁹ But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

I. THE BASICS OF OUR SANCTIFICATION (blade)

Sanctification looks like abounding in love, knowledge, and discernment...so that we may approve what is excellent and so be pure and blameless!

Philippians 1:8-10 "8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ..."

LOVE

KNOWLEDGE

DISCERNMENT

APPROVE WHAT IS EXCELLENT

PURE

BLAMELESS

II. THE FRUIT OF OUR SANCTIFICATION (grain)

Jesus produces fruit in us by His Spirit as He sanctifies us!

Philippians 1:11a "filled with the fruit of righteousness (or "the fruit from righteousness") that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory & praise of God."

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

III. THE SOURCE OF OUR SANCTIFICATION (earth)

Sanctification only comes through Jesus Christ!

Philippians 1:11b "filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."

JESUS

- **Calvin:** "We are wild olive trees, and unproductive, until we are grafted into Christ, who by His living root makes us fruit bearing trees (John 16:1 "I am the vine, you are the branches.")"

- **Jesus is the earth, seed, sun, and water that causes us to grow**—to abound more & more in love, knowledge, & discernment and so be pure and blameless for the day of Jesus Christ!

IV. THE GOAL OF OUR SANCTIFICATION (harvest)

Sanctification is to the glory and praise of God!

Philippians 1:11c filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

GLORY

PRAISE

- **1 PETER 1:5-7** ⁵ "by God's power [you] are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

- **This is the harvest!** This is why Jesus is redeeming a people for Himself by His satisfaction on the cross & His Spirit's sanctifying work in us everyday. He sends sowers to plant & water the seed. He causes His gospel to grow. We bear fruit. Then He plucks us for His own enjoyment.

- **The sweet taste of the fruit of righteousness is God beholding His name glorified and praised throughout the earth!**

- **Q. Do you want your life to taste sweet to Jesus?** Then abound in love! Abound in knowledge and discernment so that you may approve what is excellent!

- **Q. Do you wish to taste sweet to God?** Trust Christ alone and be filled the fruit of righteousness! Glorify Him! Praise Him and your life is sweet to Him!

Affection = *spaglanon* (11x)

- MEANING: the bowels; inward affection, tender mercy.
- CF: Luke 1:78 (Zechariah's prophecy) "because of the *tender mercy* of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high."
Colossians 3:12 "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, *compassionate hearts*, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience..."

Love = *agapē* (117x)

- MEANING: affection or benevolence. (affection that always culminates in benevolence. Willing self-sacrifice for the good of another.)
- CF: 1 John 4:10 "In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Abound = *perisseuō* (55x)

- MEANING: superabound; overflow; be exceedingly full; enough to spare and then some.
- CF: 1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

Knowledge = *epignōsis* (25x)

- MEANING: precise and correct knowledge.
- CF: Romans 10:2 "For I bear them (*Jews who have rejected Jesus*) witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to *knowledge*" Colossians 1:10 "...walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the *knowledge* of God" 2 Peter 1:3 "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the *knowledge* of him who called us to his own glory and excellence..."

Discernment = *aisthēsis* (1x)

- MEANING: Judgement; the ability to judge well; not only by the senses but by the intellect. *Fausset*: "Spiritual perceptiveness: spiritual sight, spiritual hearing, spiritual feeling, spiritual taste. Christianity is a vigorous plant, not the hotbed growth of enthusiasm. "Knowledge" and "[discernment]" guard love from being ill-judged."

Approve = *dokimazō* (24x)

- MEANING: "to test; to prove." *MacArthur*: "Approve" in classical Gr. described the [assessment] of metals or the testing of money for authenticity (cf. Lk 12: 56; 14: 19).
- CF: Romans 12:2 "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by *testing* you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Excellent = *diapherō* (19x)

- MEANING: "to differ (bad/good, good/best); excel/surpass."
- CF: Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of *more value* than they?"

Pure = *eilikrinēs* (2x)

- MEANING: "Tested as genuine; tested by sunlight." *MacArthur*: "Sincere" means "genuine," and may have originally meant "tested by sunlight." In the ancient world, dishonest pottery dealers filled cracks in their inferior products with wax before glazing and painting them, making worthless pots difficult to distinguish from expensive ones. The only way to avoid being defrauded was to hold the pot to the sun, making the wax-filled cracks obvious. Dealers marked their fine pottery that could withstand 'sun testing' as sine cera—'without wax.'" ["Sine Cera" is the Latin meaning for "without wax.""]
- CF: 2 Peter 3:1 "I am stirring up your *sincere* mind by way of reminder."

Blameless = *aproskopos* (3x)

- MEANING: "not striking against or stumbling; metaphorically, not led into sin; blameless."
- CF: Acts 24:16 "I...do my best to maintain always a *blameless* conscience both before God and before men."

Filled = *plēroō* (100x) (close to "Abound" from v. 9)

Fruit = *karpos* (66x) (Jesus loved using fruit as a metaphor—most of this words' uses are in the Gospels!)

Mat 3:8 - "Therefore bear fruit **G2590** in keeping with repentance;

Mat 3:10 - "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit **G2590** is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 7:16 - "You will know them by their fruits. **G2590** Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?"

Mat 7:17 - "So every good tree bears good fruit, **G2590** but the bad tree bears bad fruit. **G2590**

Mat 7:18 - "A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, **G2590** nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. **G2590**

Mat 7:19 - "Every tree that does not bear good fruit **G2590** is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Mat 7:20 - "So then, you will know them by their fruits. **G2590**

Mat 12:33 - "Either make the tree good and its fruit **G2590** good, or make the tree bad and its fruit **G2590** bad; for the tree is known by its fruit. **G2590**

Mat 13:8 - "And others fell on the good soil and *yielded a crop, **G2590** some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

Mat 13:26 - "But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, **G2590** then the tares became evident also.

Mat 21:19 - Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He *said to it, "No longer shall there ever be any fruit **G2590** from you." And at once the fig tree withered.

Mat 21:34 - "When the harvest **G2590** time approached, he sent his slaves to the vine-growers to receive his produce. **G2590**

Mat 21:41 - They *said to Him, "He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds **G2590** at the proper seasons."

Mat 21:43 - "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit **G2590** of it.