

Sermon Title: **“The Importance Of Possessing A Passion For God’s People.”**

Sermon Text: **Philippians 1:1-11**

▪ ***I John 4:7***

▪ Paul’s deep passion for the Philippians is presented to us in **2** very expressive ways:

I. Paul’s Joy-Filled Appreciation For The Philippians (vv 3-6)

▪ Every thought of these precious people brought **immense joy** to Paul’s heart.

▪ ***Paul’s heart was so full of joy that every time he thought about them, he thanked God for them.***

“Paul simply couldn’t think about these dear saints without praying for them!”

▪ The word **“partnership”** is a word that is most often translated **“fellowship.”**

▪ Because the Philippians had demonstrated such faithful service, Paul was convinced that they had indeed experienced **genuine saving faith!**

▪ ***What important truth does v 6 teach about salvation?***

II. Paul’s Heartfelt Affection For The Philippians (vv 7-8)

▪ *Paul’s heart for the Philippians is seen in 2 ways:*

A. He Loved Them Intimately (v 7)

▪ What do the terms **“defense and confirmation”** suggest?

“In that day the reality was that if Paul was taken down, then they would be taken down as well!”

▪ Paul wasn’t simply saying, **“I’m fond of you,”** he was saying, **“You are part of me!”**

B. He Longed For Them Intensely (v 8)

▪ Even though Paul experienced such a deep oneness with the Philippians, it was no substitute for **face-to-face fellowship.**

“Because of Paul’s inability to express the depth of his love for the Philippians, he called on God to bear witness as to the genuineness and the depth of his feelings!”

▪ The word translated **“yearn”** is a word that means, **“to desire earnestly, to have a strong affection for.”**

▪ The word translated **“affection”** is a word that refers to the **seat** of the **emotions.**

Paul’s affection for the Philippians had a divine origin!

- Because Paul possessed such a deep passion for God's people, in **vv 9-11** he prayed for them in at least 3 ways:
 - *In **v 9** He Prayed That They Would **Abound In Spiritual Love***
 - *In **v 10** He Prayed That They Would **Exercise Spiritual Discretion***
 - *In **v 11** He Prayed That They Would Be **Filled with Spiritual Fruit***
- **It is from this pattern of pray that we learn how to pray for other believers:**
 - *In **v 9** we should pray that they will **grow in love.***
 - *In **v 10a** we should pray that they will make **wise choices***
 - *In **v 10b** we should pray that they will live **pure lives***
 - *In **v 11a** we should pray that they will bear **spiritual fruit***
 - *In **v 11b** we should pray that they will live for **God's glory***

Conclusion:

**Do You Possess A Passion For God's People?
If not, why not?**