

"A Prayer For 2017"
Colossians 1:9-14
New Year's Message, January 1, 2017

The Prayer Petitions of Paul make a Great List of Priorities For 2017.

Paul pens these requests from a prison cell, where he is being held because of the Gospel.

What Paul prays for are Spiritual Needs. He focuses on the spiritual, not the physical.

Paul prays for **Knowledge**, which produces the **Conduct** within the Church.

We will look at 6 Priorities for 2017:

1. Verse 9 – Prayer For Knowledge Of His Will:

Colossians 1:9

"For this reason also," – he has started by greeting them and thanking God for them for the work of His Spirit in them. Now he prays for them.

Colossians 1:6-8

Paul models prayer and its importance! There are 4 things that he says about it:

1. Urgency In Prayer – "since the day we heard of it,"
2. Consistency In Prayer – "we have not ceased to pray for you"
3. Unity In Prayer – "since the day we heard of it,"
4. Intensity In Prayer – "and to ask." This was not lip service, his heart was touched.

"you may be filled" – "filled full." The word carries the idea of "being fully equipped." It was used to describe "a ship that was ready for a voyage."

Colossians 2:10

In the New Testament, the word "filled" means to be "controlled by". When we are filled with anger, we are controlled by anger. To be "filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18) means to be "controlled by the Spirit." Paul's prayer then, is that these believers might be controlled by the full knowledge of God's will.

“knowledge” – “an overflowing knowledge”; “recognition, full discernment.”

“spiritual wisdom” – “hands on of God’s truth, the doing of the right thing.”

“and understanding,” – “a mental putting together, intelligence.”

“A person with spiritual insight and discernment that understands how to apply God’s Word to specific situations.”

When we speak of the will of God, we are speaking of 2 specific areas:

- **General Will**
- **Specific Will**

If you look up the term “Will of God,” it is used 434X.

Romans 12: 1-2; 1 Peter 2: 15; John 7: 17

The Word – Psalm 119:105

Holy Spirit – Colossians 3: 15

2. Verse 10 – Prayer For A Balanced Walk:

Colossians 1: 10

“walk” – speaks of one’s conduct. It is the lifestyle that he is speaking of.

Colossians 2: 6

Colossians 3: 7

Jewish Thinking – Knowledge and Conduct Went Together.

“worthy” – means “to weigh the same as”, which speaks of the balancing of that what we know about Jesus should be practiced (Behavior Of Belief).

Christianity is action, not just words. 1 Corinthians 4: 20

3. Verse 10 – Prayer For Fruitful Service:

Colossians 1: 10

“bearing fruit” – “fruit being present and continuous”; Constant phenomena.

Jesus' Prescription For Fruitfulness: John 15: 4-5.

"bearing fruit" – This is the outcome of the worthy walk.

"fruit" – Characteristics of Jesus, fruit of the Spirit; Taking on His likeness.

John 15:8

Are we fruitful? Are we seeing an increase of the characteristics of Jesus in our lives?

4. Verse 10 – Prayer For Knowledge Through Service:

Colossians 1:10 – "increasing in the knowledge of God;"

"and increasing in the knowledge of God;" – Paul saw the connection between Action and Knowledge. That as we Continue in Service, we would naturally Grow in Knowledge.

John 7:17

5. Verse 11 – Prayer For Circumstances And People:

Colossians 1:11

"strengthened" – "to enable, to receive strength." "with all power" – "dynamite, dynamic." Paul speaks of a continuous and steady supply of power.

"for the attaining of all steadfastness" – This speaks of the "enablement for one to hold his position in battle"; "Adverse Circumstances."

"and patience;" – Long-suffering; This word means "self-restraint", 2 Peter 3:9. This word speaks of "Difficult People." Having steadfastness is no guarantee that you will have patience.

Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 25:28

"A man is as big as the things that annoy him."

6. Verses 11-14 – Prayer For An Attitude Of Gratitude:

Colossians 1:11-12

The fallen human nature is ungrateful, it is not thankful! Rom 1:21

What Reasons Do We Have To Give Thanks? 3 Reasons:

1. **Give Thanks Because We Are Saints Of The Light** – “Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.”

1 Thessalonians 5:5

2. **Give Thanks Because God Has Delivered Us** – Colossians 1:13 – “delivered us from the domain of darkness,”

1 Peter 2:9

“transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,” –
“transferred” used to describe “a mighty king picking up an entire population and transporting them to another location.”

3. **Give Thanks Because We Are Forgiven of Sin** – Colossians 1:14 – “in whom we have redemption” – “rescue by ransom, the freeing of a slave by payment of a ransom price.”

“forgiveness” – means “to send away” or “to cancel a debt” of sins.

Application:

1. Make Corporate Worship A Priority: Sundays And Wednesdays.
2. Give Full Attention When Attending The Services.
3. Application – Not how I feel, but how I act that really matters. Let God’s Word be the final authority.
4. Those Attending For 6 Months Or Longer Should Be Serving.
5. Be Committed To Growth In 2017.
6. Pray For The Pastors and Wives, Staff, Leadership, Services, Ministries, Preparation time for study.