

“I Am Praying For You”
Colossians 1:9-14
Part-2

The ministry of the New Testament Church – the leaders were given to “Teaching the Word and Prayer.” **Acts 6:4**

Paul prays for **Knowledge** which produces the **Conduct** within the church.

Background of Colossians: Paul, from prison, writes to a church he has never visited. **The Crisis** – Greek philosophy, mixed with Oriental mysticism, with Jewish legalism.

Colossians 1 – DOCTRINE – CHRIST’S PREMINENCE DECLARED.

Thought Of Our Passage: “Our Thanksgiving To God Gives Way To Our Prayers To God For Knowing And Doing His Will.”

“I Am Praying For You” – Contains Six Petitions For The Believers:

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

Colossians 1:9

“For this reason also,” – For what reason is Paul speaking of? He has just spoken about their reception of the gospel, 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. Steadiness In Prayer – “we have not ceased to pray for you”
3. Unity In Prayer – “since the day we heard of it,” – Note “we”; this was Paul and Timothy who were praying together.
4. Passion In Prayer – “and to ask”

“and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge” – Ephesians 1:17-19.

“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 – “and in Him you have been made complete,”

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” (Ephesians 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,” 1 Corinthians 1:5.

“spiritual wisdom” – “hands on of God’s truth, the doing of the right thing”; Need His wisdom to know His will. “Wisdom,” 6X in this letter.

“and understanding,” – “a mental putting together, intelligence.” To separate truth from error! Application of wisdom!

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

“knowledge of His will” – This is foundational of every true life.

General Will – The Bible contains principles that are clearly laid out.

Specific Will – What is my occupation? Whom should I marry? Should I buy this house or car?

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

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

God leads through...

1. The Word – Psalm 119:105
2. Holy Spirit – Colossians 3:15

Will we ask God to fill us with the knowledge of His will today?

2. Verse 10 – Prayer For A Balanced Walk:

Colossians 1:10 – “so that you will walk” – This word “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 which we know about Jesus should be practiced; Behavior Of Belief, God’s will.

“in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,” – Hebrews 11:5.

R. Kent Hughes said, “If our doctrine lifts us so high that our feet cannot reach the ground, it is false.”

1 Corinthians 4:20

“to please Him in all respects” – are we going to live to please Him? Paul’s goal – to be pleasing to God, 2 Corinthians 5:9.

3. Verse 10 – Prayer For Fruitful Service:

Colossians 1:10

“bearing fruit” – “fruit being present and continuous,” Consent 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. Converts – 1 Corinthians 16:15.

John 15:8

4. Verse 10 – Prayer For Knowledge Through Service:

Colossians 1:10

“and increasing in the knowledge of God;” – Paul mentions knowledge again, Why? “bearing fruit in every good work 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 Circumstance’s And People:

Colossians 1:11

“strengthened” – “to enable, to receive strength” with all power – It is from this word we get our word “dynamite, dynamic.”

“according to His glorious might,” – The strength that is available is based on God’s own scale; His attributes.

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

“and patience;” – Long-suffering; This word means “self-restraint”, the opposite of revenge. God is long-suffering toward people because of His love and grace, 2 Peter 3:9.

This word speaks of “Difficult People”

Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 25:28

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

Colossians 1:11-12 – “joyously giving thanks to the Father,” – The fallen human nature is ungrateful, it is not thankful! Romans 1:21; 1 Timothy 3:1

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.”

“Father” – From judge before salvation to loving Father! “who has qualified us” – “authorize, to make fit.”

“the saints in light.” – Separated from the world of darkness – 1 Thessalonians. 5:5

2. **Give Thanks Because God Has Delivered Us** – Colossians 1:13 – “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness,” – Exodus 10:21-23.

1 Peter 2:9

“Transferred” – The word was used “to describe a mighty king picking up an entire population and transporting them to another location.”

3. Give Thanks Because We Have The Forgiveness 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: This reality is right now.

1. Prayer For Knowledge Of His Will.
2. Prayer For A Balanced Walk.
3. Prayer For Fruitful Service.
4. Prayer For Knowledge Through Service.
5. Prayer For Circumstances And People.
6. Prayer For An Attitude Of Gratitude.