

The Substance of Paul's Prayer for the Colossians (Col 1:8-14)

- In Paul's prayer of thanksgiving: saw something of the heart of prayer
- Paul was moved to prayer: heard of Gospel fruit in lives of Colossians
- Three truths moved Paul to pray with thankfulness for evidence of life
 - 1) The fruit of the Gospel: faith, hope and love (1:3-5a)
 - 2) The power of the Gospel, its bearing fruit (1:5b-7)
 - 3) Servants of the Gospel: Epaphras, fellow minister, faithful servant (8)

I. In Praying for the Colossians Paul teaches them How to pray (9a)

- Vs. 9a "We do not cease to pray for you"- praying continually for them
- Paul's prayer teaches the Colossians to pray God's thoughts after Him.
- 'We pray' vs 3 & 9 corporate focus- Paul prayed for them with others
- when Paul prayed for the Colossians, he had specific graces in mind

II. Paul teaches the Colossians what to pray for specifically (9b-14)

- 1) he prays for "**fullness**"(9a) that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual understanding" (Rom 12:1; Eph 5:17)
- 2) prays for "**fruitfulness**" (10) "that you may walk worthy of the Lord"
- 3) prays for faithfulness "**strengthened with all might**" he knows faithfulness requires patience, longsuffering and joy.
- 4) for "**fruition/ maturity**"(12-14) Paul summarizes: word of redemption
 - a) *Inheritance*: to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light
 - b) *Deliverance*: being '**delivered...from the power of darkness**'
 - c) *Transference*: "**conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**"
 - d) *Acceptance* "**redemption through His blood... forgiveness of sins**"