

Sermon Series: Colossians

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:9-14 Prayer for the Church

God's redeeming grace emboldens us to pray for each other to have knowledge of God's will so that we walk worthy of the Lord.

1) God's redeeming grace emboldens us to pray for each other (1:9, 12b-14).

- a) "And so" (v. 9)—the report of God's current work among them stimulates prayer
- b) "Who has qualified you" (v. 12)—because God is our Guarantor
- c) "Who has delivered us" (v. 13a)—because God is our Savior
- d) "Who has transferred us" (v. 13b)—because Christ is our King
- e) "in Whom we have redemption" (v. 14)—because Christ is our Redeemer
- f) **Application:**
 - i) What are your inducements to pray for one another?
 - ii) Meditate on the glorious Person of God as Father, of Jesus Christ as the Son of God, of the Holy Spirit as the bond of Love in the Trinity and in creation.
 - iii) Meditate on the saving work of God as the Father who ordains, the Son who redeems, and the Spirit who brings to fruition in your life and church.

2) God emboldens us to pray for knowledge of God's will (1:9).

- a) "filled with the knowledge of His will" — not merely how to behave, but glorifying and enjoying God in light of His plan of salvation in Christ
- b) "Spiritual wisdom and understanding"
 - i) Spiritual is the wisdom and understanding imparted by the Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor. 2:13)
 - ii) Wisdom is knowledge, skill, discernment applied to life grounded in the fear of the Lord.
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Christian living requires godly wisdom in every circumstance.
 - ii) Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ to increase in knowledge of the Bible.
 - iii) Pray for their discernment to distinguish truth from error.
 - iv) Pray for their decision-making to be God-centered.

3) Knowledge of God's will directs us to walk worthy of the Lord (1:10-12a).

- a) "so as to walk worthy of the Lord"—walking refers to the conduct of the whole life; "worthy" is to reflect accurately on the Lord
- b) "fully pleasing to Him"—"fully" corresponds to the Shema; "pleasing" is Christ's delight
 - i) "bearing fruit in every good work"—the fruit of faith is good work
 - ii) "increasing in the knowledge of God"—note the spiral upward
 - iii) "being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy"—this is the fruit of the Spirit
 - iv) "giving thanks to the Father"—gratitude is characteristic of lively faith
- c) **Application:**
 - i) Christianity is intellectual and practical, knowing and doing, indicative and imperative.
 - ii) Pray for the chief end of man.

Doxology: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God from His sanctuary; the God of Israel—He is the One who gives power and strength to His people. Blessed be God! (Psalm 68:34-35)