



Edgemont Bible Church
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Colossians

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Intro: The Encouragement of Prayer for Another

Part of an apostles ministry - Acts 6:4 Ministry of the Word and Prayer. Though Paul gives Rich instruction, he also shares something of His prayers for them starting with prayer request (1:9-11) and finishing with praise (1:12-14).

Paul acknowledge the importance of Prayer as he requested others to pray for him in his ministry - 2 Co 1:11; Phil 1:19; Phi 22. One would expect Paul and the others to encourage prayer for one another - Eph 6:18; 1 Tim 2:1; Heb 13:18.

The Bible is full of examples of people praying for others

Job praying for his friends - Job 42:10

Moses for Aaron - Deut 9:20; for Miriam - Num 12:13

Samuel for Israel - 1 Sam 7:5,9

David for Israel - 2 Sam 24:17; for Solomon - 1 Chron. 28:18-19

Hezekiah for Judah - 2 Kgs 19:14-19

Daniel for Israel - Dan 9:3-19

Ezekiel for Israel - Ezek 9:8

Nehemiah for Judah - Neh 1:4-11

Jesus for His disciples - Jo 17:9-24

The Jerusalem Church for Peter - Acts 12:5

Paul for Christians - Ro 1:9-10; Eph 1:16-19

Epaphras for the Colossians - Col 4:12

Because prayer is so important, Paul begins by sharing the nature of his prayers for them

II. Paul's Prayer for the Colossians - Part 1

A. The Request - vs 9

1. For this reason we also,

a. since the day we heard it, The favorable report given by Epaphras

b. do not cease to pray for you, it is still important to pray for those that are doing well

i. Requires a God-Consciousness - to view everything in life as God has something to do with this also

ii. Requires a people-Consciousness - we cannot effectively pray for people without knowing their needs

c. that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will

i. **pleroo** - to make replete, to completely fill, or totally controlled

ii. **Epignosis** - recognition, full discernment, acknowledgement:--(ac-) knowledge(-ing, - ment).

- Knowledge is a central theme in Paul's writings

- 1 Cor 1:5 - that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge

- Eph 1:17 - may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him

- Phil 1:9 - that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment

- Col 2:3 - in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge

- Col 3:10 - the new man who is renewed in knowledge

iii. The Epistles are written with chapters on things that must be known before the chapters on the Practical

- Ro 1-11 Doctrine; 12-16 Practical

- Gal 1-4 Doctrine; 5-6 Practical

- Eph - 1-3 Doctrine; 4-6 Practical

- Phil and Col follow the same pattern

iv. the warnings in the Bible against the lack of Knowledge

- Pro 19:2 - it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge

- Hos 4:6 - My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge

- 1 Co 14:20 - do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature

- Eph 4:14 - we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine

- Eph 4:18 - having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

v. How does one gain knowledge?

- First one must desire it - Jo 7:17; Hos 6:3

- Second he must depend on the Holy Spirit - 1 Co 2:10-12

d. in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

2. Five Purposes Fulfilled in such Spiritual Knowledge – Vs 10-11

a. A Spiritual Walk – vs 10a

i. walk – pattern of Daily Conduct

ii. worthy of the Lord = fully pleasing Him,

- the Scripture exhorts what seems impossible

-1 Thess 2:12 - that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory

-Eph 4:1 - to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called

-Phil 1:27 - let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ

- Features of a worthy walk

-Humility – Eph 4:1-3

-Purity – Ro 13:13

-Contentedness – 1 Co 7:17

-Faith – 2 Co 5:7

-In Good Works - Eph 2:10

-In Love Eph 5:2

-Different from the World – Eph 4:17-32

-In Light – Eph 5:8

-In Wisdom - Eph 5:15

-In Truth – 3 Jo 3-4

b. Spiritual Fruit – vs 10b

i. being fruitful is the mark of true faith

- Joh 15:8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;
- Ro 7:4 you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another--to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God.

ii. The Bible defines fruit in various ways

- (Here) being fruitful in every good work
- Converts– 1 Co 16:15; Rom 1:13
- Praise – Heb 13:15
- Offerings – Rom 15:26-28
- Godly Living – Heb 12:11
- Godly Character developed by the Spirit - Gal 5:22-23

iii. What Produces Fruit – vs 10b

- First - Union with Christ – Ro 7:4; Jo 15:1-8
- Second – wisdom that comes from the above
 - the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
- Third – effort on the part of the believer – 2 Pet 1:5-8

c. Spiritual Growth – vs 10c

i. and increasing in the knowledge of God;

ii. **Te epignosei** – in the knowledge of God

iii. Marks of spiritual growth

- deeper love for God's word – Ps 119:97
- more obedience – 1 Jo 2:3-5
- enlarged faith – 2 Thess 1:3; 2 Co 10:15
- greater love – Phil 1:9

d. Spiritual Strength – vs 11a

i. strengthened with all might,

- **dunamoumenoi** – present participle indicating continuous action - to enable:--strengthen.
- Not like a booster rocket – get them going and leave them to fly on their own

ii. according to His glorious power,

- **doxa** – refers to the manifestation of the attributes of God
- **kratos** - vigor ("great"):--dominion, might(-ily), power, strength.
 - Refers to strength in action
 - used 12 times, 11 about God

-God's power is manifested in us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit – Col 1:29; Acts 1:8; Eph 3:16; Rom 15:13;

-Available to the believer who is filled with the knowledge of God's word

e. Spiritual Endurance – vs 11b

i. Knowledge of God's promises and purposes revealed in God's word gives strength to endure trials and suffering

- **hupomone** - cheerful (or hopeful) endurance, constancy:-- enduring, patience, patient continuance (waiting). Deals more with circumstances.

- **makrothumia** - longanimity, i.e. (objectively) forbearance or (subjectively) fortitude:--longsuffering, patience. Deals more with People.

ii. Not the stoic teeth gritting patient enduring of trials, but the strength provided by the knowledge of God's word allows the believer to endure trials joyously. - Mt 5:11-12; Ac 5:41; Ro 5:3; 2Co 12:10; Php 2:17; Jas 1:2;