

Colossians 1:9-14

“Learning from Paul’s God-centered, Gospel-centered Prayer”

Christ Fellowship Bible Church
Wednesday Bible Study - Sep. 2, 2020

Background: *It seems Paul wrote and sent Ephesians and Colossians together around 60 AD while in prison in Rome, after his third missionary journey. There is considerable overlap between these two letters, and Paul mentions Tychicus at the end of both as the one who likely delivered them. Unlike Ephesus, Paul never visited Colossae, a relatively smaller town 100 miles east of Ephesus (both in modern Turkey). Epaphras heard and believed the Gospel in Ephesus and then brought it to Colossae. A few years after their conversion, Paul writes to these still new believers about their new life in Christ.*

Main Point: Since Paul heard that the Colossians believed the Gospel, he and Timothy kept praying that they would walk in a worthy manner of the Lord, growing in their knowledge, faithfulness and Gospel fruitfulness.

1. FOR WHOM Paul prayed (v. 9 etc.)

- A. For a local church, not for any individual believer on his or her own (v. 2).

- B. For Christians he never met (v. 4-8).

**Great resource to help you pray for global Gospel work: www.operationworld.org*

2. WHEN Paul prayed (v.9)

- A. Immediately... whenever he heard of the power of God at work in the Gospel.

- B. Unceasingly.

3. WHY Paul prayed (v. 10a, 11b, 12-14)

A. So that the Colossian church will **walk worthily** of the Lord and fully please Him (10a).

B. For the **attaining of all steadfastness and patience** (v. 11b).

C. For God to **get more thanks and glory** from the Gospel on display in Colossae (12-14).

Three ways we can pray for God to get more thanks and praise in the Gospel:

1) The Father has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light (v. 12).

2) He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (v. 13).

3) In [His beloved Son] we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins (v.14).

4. WHAT Paul prayed (v. 9,10b-12a)

A. That they may be **filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding** (v.9).

He further prayed their lives would be worthy of and pleasing to God, which he describes in four ways:

i. **Bearing fruit** in every good work (10b)

ii. **Increasing in the knowledge of God** (10c)

iii. [Being] **strengthened** with all power, according to His glorious might (11)

iv. [joyously] **Giving thanks** to the Father (12)

CFBC Wed night studies on prayers of the Bible:

- 1 Samuel 2:1-10 “Hannah's Heartfelt & Triumphant Prayer of Thanksgiving” (Aug. 5, 2020)
- Exodus 33:18 “God, Please Show Me Your Glory!” [a prayer of Moses] (Aug. 12, 2020)
- Romans 1:8-15 “Paul's Prayer: Thanksgiving, Intercession, Encouragement, Gospel-Growth!” (Aug. 19, 2020)
- 2 Kings 6:8-23 “How Prayer Banishes Fear!” (Aug. 26, 2020)

Other prayers of Paul (for additional study):

- Romans 15:14-33
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Ephesians 3:14-21
- Philippians 1:9-11
- 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
- 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12

Book recommendations:

- *Praying with Paul: A Call to Spiritual Reformation* - D. A. Carson
- *Praying the Bible* - Donald S. Whitney

James 4:2b-3: “You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.”

Robert Murray M'Cheyne: “What a man is alone and on his knees before God, that he is, and no more.”

J.I. Packer: “I believe that prayer is the measure of a man, spiritually, in a way that nothing else is, so that how we pray is as important a question as we can ever face.”

J. I. Packer: “I start with the truism that each Christian's prayer life like every good marriage, has in it common factors about which one can generalize and also uniquenesses which no other Christian's prayer life will quite match. You are you, and I am I, and we must each find our own way with God, and there is no recipe for prayer that can work for us like a handyman's do-it-yourself manual or cookery book, where the claim is that if you follow the instructions you can't go wrong. **Praying is not like carpentry or cookery; it is the active exercise of a personal relationship, a kind of**

friendship, with the living God and his Son Jesus Christ, and the way it goes is more under divine control than under ours. Books on praying, like marriage manuals, are not to be treated with slavish superstition, as if perfection of technique is the answer to all difficulties; their purpose, rather, is to suggest things to try. But as in other close relationships, so in prayer: you have to find out by trial and error what is right for you, and **you learn to pray by praying...** The only rules are, stay within biblical guidelines and within those guidelines, as John Chapman puts it, 'pray as you can and don't try to pray as you can't.'"

JESUS I COME

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to Thee.