

Powered By Prayer

Colossians 1:9-14

Introduction

I The Motivation for Paul's Prayer

A. He had heard about:

1. Their **faith** in Christ Jesus - Rom 10:17
2. Their love for all the saints - Gal 5:6
3. Their **hope** stored up in heaven - 1 Pet 1:3-5

B. He had not stopped **praying** for them - 1 Thess 1:3

II The Focus of Paul's Prayer

A. He asked God to **fill** them:

1. With the knowledge of His will: - Eph 1:17; 5:17
 - a. Through all spiritual **wisdom** - James 3:15-17
 - b. Through all spiritual **understanding** - 1 Jn 5:20

III The Goal of Paul's Prayer

A. That they might live a life **worthy** of the Lord - Eph 4:1

B. That they might **please** the Lord in every way - Eph 5:10

1. Bearing fruit in every good **work** - Jn 15:8, 16; Eph 2:10
2. Growing in the knowledge of God - Jn 17:3; 2 Pet 3:18
3. Being strengthened with all **power** - Eph 3:16; 2 Cor 12:9
 - a. According to his glorious might - Eph 1:18-20

C. That they might have great **endurance**/patience - Jms 1:12

D. That they might joyfully give **thanks** to the Father - Jms 1:2-4

IV The Justification for Paul's Prayer

A. God had qualified them to share:

1. In the **inheritance** of the saints - Rom 8:17
2. In the kingdom of light - Prov 4:18

B. God had **rescued** them from darkness - 2 Cor 4:4; 1 Pet 2:9

C. God had brought them into the kingdom of the Son He loves

1. In whom they had **redemption** - Eph 1:7
2. In whom they had **forgiveness** of sins - Col 2:13-14

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Share a personal story of the power of prayer in your life.
2. Paul prays that the Colossian believers will “be filled with a knowledge of God’s will.” How do you generally determine God’s will? 1) Guess 2) Do what makes sense 3) Ask your friends for advice 3) Do a careful study in the Bible. What decisions/challenges are you seeking God’s will on now?
3. Paul identifies the goals of his prayer in verses 10-12 [Outline IIIA-D]. Of these four characteristics, which do you find most inspiring? Most challenging? What, if anything, keeps you from living this way? What steps should you take?
4. Ephesians 5:10 tells us to “find out what pleases the Lord.” On a scale of 1-10, how pleasing is your life to God? What steps will you take today to live a life more pleasing to Him?
5. Use the format of Paul’s prayer in verses 9-14 to intercede for someone in your life. Then give them a call, encourage them and let them know that you are praying for them!
6. Take time to thank God for qualifying you to share in the inheritance of the saints, for rescuing you from the dominion of darkness and for bringing you into the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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