

THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST

Lesson 2: Praying for Those in the Line of Fire

Colossians 1:9–14

- I. **The catalyst to pray:** The positive report about the condition of the Colossian church drove the apostle Paul to his knees to pray for them (*Colossians 1:9a*).
- II. **The need to internalize:** The apostle prayed that his readers would internalize God's biblical directives and learn how to apply them (*Colossians 1:9b*).
- III. **The overflow of doctrine:** Paul prayed that the Colossians' assimilation of biblical truth would overflow into lives that pleased the Lord (*Colossians 1:10a*).
- IV. **The life that pleases:** A life that pleases the Lord is characterized in four specific ways (*Colossians 1:10b–14*).
 - A. **Fruitfulness:** Such a life will bear Christ-like fruit in every facet of life (*cp. John 15:1–7*) (*Colossians 1:10b*).
 - B. **Maturity:** Such a life will continue to grow deeper in a relationship with God (*cp. Philippians 3:10*) (*Colossians 1:10c*).
 - C. **Dependence:** Such a life will repeatedly appropriate God's power to face all that life throws at us (*cp. Philippians 4:13*) (*Colossians 1:11*).
 - D. **Gratitude:** Such a life will persistently give thanks to God by focusing on what Christ has done for us (*Colossians 1:12–14*).
 - Gratitude to God the Father will become a persistent theme of our lives (*Colossians 1:12a*).
 - The ultimate basis for our gratitude is what Jesus Christ has done for us (*Colossians 1:12b–14*).
 - Christ has enabled us to share in heaven's riches (*Colossians 1:12b*).
 - He fitted us for heaven by rescuing us from the dark, rebel kingdom (*Colossians 1:13*).
 - He was able to rescue and transfer us by redeeming us through His death and resurrection (*Colossians 1:14*).

Next week: Colossians 1:15–23