

CENTERED:

Focussing Your Life on Christ

Colossians 1:9-14



1. WARM UP

- When is it easiest or most natural for you to pray?
- What are the things you normally pray for?
- What do you find most confusing or challenging about prayer?

2. DIVE IN

Read Colossians 1:9-14: In this section of the letter Paul writes out his prayer for the Colossians. Components of this prayer set the tone for the letter and its focus and content. Notice the flow and direction of this prayer as you read through and study this section of Colossians.

- What is the root request of this prayer [9]?
- Where does one find this root according to the end of verse 9?
- What are the results of this according to verses 10-12?
- What significant truths does he include in the end his prayer in verses 13-14?
- What progression do you notice in this prayer from the beginning to the end?
- What significant themes emerge in this prayer that could be important later in this letter?
- What is the end point of this prayer and how does that prepare the reader for the next section (vs. 15-20)?
- What other significant themes jump out from this section?
[Remember to keep the context in mind and not jump outside of the book of Colossians]

3. REFLECT

- How do you go about finding Gods will with proper wisdom and spiritual understanding? What are some wrong ways to discern Gods will? What do you think Paul is pointing at in this prayer?
- In our day and age, how do we set about to live a life worthy of the Lord? What does that look like? Give a few concrete examples from contemporary life.
- What is the purpose of the strengthening in verse 11? How do these qualities show up in your everyday life?
- Do you have a pattern of joyfully giving thanks to the Father for all He has done for you?
- Who has qualified us to share in the saints inheritance in the light? What comfort should we take from verses 12-14 when it comes to our own identity and centeredness in Christ?



CENTERED:

Focussing Your Life on Christ

Colossians 1:9-14



4. APPLY

- A Centered person is focused on Christ. A person focused on Christ makes prayer a habit in their lives and the content of their prayers is centered on Gods will for themselves and for others.
- Do you have a regulated pattern of prayer in your life? Plan to begin with a short time every day with God if you do not already do so. Begin prayerful conversation with God and use this prayer as a template as you pray for your family, your church and other believers that you know.
- Determine that you will be committed to Gods will for your life and seek His will through prayerful time in Gods Word and in prayerful relationships with other believers.
- Is there fruitfulness in your life today because you are fulfilling Gods will right now? What is that fruit. Spend time praising God for His work in your life. If you cant identify any fruit then it is time for a renewed focus on Christ in your life and a willingness to adjust your life to accommodate Gods will for your time, talents and treasure.
- Are you feeling weak or strong in your life today? This prayer reminds us that God gives us the strength to be patient and to be steadfast as we navigate the world in which we live. In addition, God supplies the joy and gratitude for us to live above our circumstances. This only comes when we center our lives on Christ. Recalibrate your perspective today as you look to God to be your strength.
- Do you realize today what God has done for you? Reread verse 13-14. Praise God for all that He has done in your life. Recount the blessings listed in these verses and meditate on how these change your identity and your future. An important part of being centered is keeping Gods work on our behalf always in focus.

5. PRAY

- Pray for a knowledge of Gods will that comes through wisdom and spiritual understanding.
- Pray that we would live our lives in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him in every way.
- Pray that our lives would be continually bearing fruit for God.
- Pray that we would be growing in our knowledge of God.
- Pray for Gods strength and power in order to have patient endurance in our journey of faith.
- Praise God for our new identity as seen in verses 12-13.
- Pray this prayer for your friends and family in the faith.

6. LOOK FORWARD

Read Colossians 1:15-20 and think about how Paul is presenting Christ as the Only One qualified to be the supreme Center of our lives and of the whole world. This passage is a critical text in the New Testament on the nature of Christ and deserves prayerful meditation as you ponder the greatness and uniqueness of Jesus Christ our Lord; there is no One like Him!

