

“A Prayer For the People of God” (Colossians 1:9-14)

Upon hearing of the church’s (1) faith in the Savior (v.4a), love for the saints (v.4b) and hope in their salvation (v.5a), Paul prays for their continued growth. His prayer for the Colossian church should be our prayer for the church today. We may need to pray this prayer for ourselves as well as our fellow church members. Notice three specific requests which this prayer makes to God for the church.

- I. Pray that we may KNOW GOD’S WILL MORE PERFECTLY.
(v.9a “...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will.”)
 - A. We discover God’s will through SPIRITUAL WISDOM (v.9c “...in all spiritual wisdom...”).
 - Wisdom — “knowing the mind of God as revealed by the Spirit of God through the Word of God over time.”
 1. Proverbs 1:7
 2. James 3:17
 - B. We discover God’s will through PRACTICAL UNDERSTANDING. (v.9d “...and understanding”)
 - Understanding—knowing the ways of God from observing the works of God over time.
 1. Proverbs 3:13-14
 2. Ephesians 5:17
 - Wisdom is more valuable than wealth.
- II. Pray that we may WALK WITH GOD MORE PLEASINGLY. (v.10a “so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...”)
 - II Corinthians 5:9
 - What is it that pleases the Lord? (three things, at least):
 - A. FAITH pleases God. (v.10a “...walk...”) — live, conduct our lives
 1. II Corinthians 5:7
 2. Hebrews 11:6
 - B. FRUIT pleases God. (v.10b “...bearing fruit in every good work...”)
 - There are essentially three kinds of fruit that we can “produce.”
 1. The fruit of SERVICE (or CONDUCT). Ephesians 2:10
 2. The fruit of the SPIRIT (or CHARACTER). Galatians 5:22
 3. The fruit of SOULS (or CONVERTS). Romans 1:13
 - C. FAITHFULNESS pleases God. (Revelation 2:10 “Be faithful unto death and I will give you the crown of life...”)
 - Paul had heard of the faithfulness of the church.
 1. I Corinthians 4:2
 2. Steve Green, “May all who come behind us find us faithful. May the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe and the lives we live inspire them to obey...”
- III. Pray that we may SERVE HIM MORE POWERFULLY.
(v.11 “strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might...”)
 - Ephesians 3:20 He is “able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the (His) power that works within us.”
 - A. We are empowered to serve Him PERSISTENTLY. (v.11c “...for the attaining of all steadfastness...”) —enduringly consistent, keeping on keeping on
 - I Corinthians 15:58
 - B. We are empowered to serve Him PATIENTLY.
(v.11d “...for the attaining of all...patience...”) — “Long-suffering, self-restraint, waiting actively upon the Lord”
 - James 1:14
 - C. We are empowered to serve Him PRAYERFULLY. (vv.11c-14 “...joyously giving thanks to the Father...”)
 - These verses (vv.11c-14) instruct us on HOW TO PRAY (v.12a) and WHY WE SHOULD PRAY (vv.12b-14)

When you pray, pray for YOURSELF, your FAMILY, your CHURCH. Pray that:

- (1) We may KNOW GOD’S WILL MORE PERFECTLY.
- (2) We may WALK WITH GOD MORE PLEASINGLY.
- (3) We may SERVE GOD MORE POWERFULLY