



THE THREAD

weaving Sunday's message through the week

Date: January 10, 2021

Theme: Gospel-centered Prayer

Passage: Colossians 1:3–14

Paul's Prayer for the Colossians reveals two overarching characteristics of the effective prayer:

1. Prayer should be marked by thanks for the work of the gospel in other's lives rather than the physical blessings we may experience (1:3–8). Notice what prompts Paul's thanksgiving:
 - a. Believers' faith in Jesus Christ (4a)
 - b. Believers' love for one another (4b)
 - c. The hope being produced by the gospel (5–8)
2. Prayer should focus on a knowledge of God's will so that we live a life that pleases him (1:9–14).
 - a. Content of the prayer: Believers being filled with the knowledge of God's will (9)
 - b. Purpose of the prayer: Believers live a life that pleases God (10a)
 - c. Means by which we live a life that pleases God (10b–14):
 - i. bearing fruit in every good deed
 - ii. growing in knowledge of God
 - iii. being strengthened with Christ's power to endure
 - iv. thanking God for making you part of his kingdom through the gospel

Main Idea: As we gain a knowledge of God's will, we will live out the gospel in relationship with others.

Application Questions:

- Why do you suppose we don't pray more often than we do? What excuses do you have for not praying more often?

- What typifies your prayers? What are things you find yourself praying for most often?

- What are the things that Paul thanks God for in this prayer (vv. 3–8)? What are the requests that he focuses on in this prayer (9–14)? How should this affect your prayers?

- According to this prayer, how would you define the will of God?

- What role does the gospel play in Paul's prayer, how can it help us form our prayers?

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