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Prayer For A Worthy Walk
Colossians 1:9-20

Thank you for being here tonight as we continue to work our way through the prayers of Paul. I just want all of you know what an encouragement it has been and continues to be to be here and to be one of your pastors. The apostle John wrote about what gives the greatest joy to a pastor in 3 John 4, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." You love the truth and you seek to walk in the truth and that gives me great joy.

Please take your Bible and open God's Word to Colossians 1. I want to start our time together tonight reading Colossians 1:9 all the way down to verse 20. We won't be going through this entire section tonight but I wanted to read this entire section because this is actually one long sentence in the original greek manuscript and I want you to get the flow of the entire prayer.

Colossians 1:9-20

- 9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
- 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;
- 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
- 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

- 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities —all things were created through him and for him.
17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.
19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Before we get into this prayer it would be good to step back and get the historical context of Colossians. It's always good when we study Scripture to ask God for help and to start with the original author and the original audience. Before we ask ourselves what verses mean to our lives we always need to start with what the verses meant to the original audience. We start in their world before we move to our world.

Paul's letter to the Colossians is an interesting letter. Paul is writing to a body of believers that he has never met before. Paul didn't know these people personally. He heard about them from a friend of his named Epaphrus. Paul taught the gospel to Epaphrus and Epaphrus got saved and took the gospel to this area and started preaching it and people started getting saved.

I like Epaphrus. I can't wait to meet this man in glory. **I like Epaphrus because he was a courageous Christian.** He wasn't an apostle. He never saw the risen Christ. He was a regular guy who got saved and made the most of his life for Christ. He prized salvation as the number one focus of his life. What he cared most about was being saved and helping people understand why they need to be saved and how Jesus Christ is the only One who is qualified to save.

I think Epaphrus lived out what Paul prayed for in Philippians 1:9-11. Remember last week we considered Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:9-11.

Remember what Paul prayed for in that prayer? Paul prayed that our love would abound more and more. No limits to agape love. And Paul prayed that our abounding love would be guided by truth, the twin riverbanks of knowledge and discernment. Why? So we would be able to choose what is best.

In a world of options, Paul wanted believers to prioritize kingdom living. Paul knew that only one life will soon be past and only what's done for Christ will last. To live is what and to die is what? To live is Christ and to die is gain. Paul lived that and passed that kind of lifestyle on to people who knew him the best.

Epaphrus was a man we can all learn from because he chose what is best in life. What's best is making disciples. How did this man make more and better disciples for Christ? Look at Colossians 1:7, "(The end of verse 6 says the grace of God in truth) just as you learned it from Epaphrus our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit."

What's the key to discipleship? **God's grace is what creates discipleship.** The gospel changes lives. Why? No one follows the Lord whose heart is unchanged. Those who are in the flesh cannot do something - what is it? Romans 8:8 says, "Those who are in the flesh cannot please God." **What we cannot do in the flesh we are empowered to do with the help of the Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit rides in on the wings of the gospel and turns hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. That's why Paul never assumed the gospel with the people he served and he never exhorted believers to obey apart from the gospel. By way of reminder - who needs the grace of the gospel? Look down at Colossians 1:21.

Colossians 1:21 shows us the spiritual condition of these people before Epaphrus took the gospel to this area and started preaching it. Colossians 1:21, "And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil

deeds.” That was the spiritual condition of this body of believers prior to them hearing and experiencing the true grace of God. Epaphrus understood this. **He knew that more people are lost than found.** He knew that everyone outside of the grace of God is alienated from God and that is what leads to a hostile mind toward God and that is what leads to evil deeds.

Why is the world around us spiraling out of control? Where does evil come from? Colossians 1:21 shows us where evil comes from. Evil flows from a hostile mind that flows from being alienated from God. Epaphrus knew the spiritual condition of everyone outside of Christ and he knew that the gospel was the only thing that could transform sinners into saints.

Who needs the gospel of grace? Everyone outside of Christ. **Everyone who is not firmly seated in the lifeboat of Christ is swimming in icy waters.** They’re not just drowning spiritually and need someone to throw them a life preserver. They’re dead in sin and only the gospel of grace can make them alive together with Christ.

As I was driving into the office this morning this reality hit me once again. I am here to know Christ and to make Him known. I am here because I believe God has chosen people to be saved in this area who must hear the gospel to be saved. I hope that’s why you’re a part of Cornerstone Bible Church. The early church gathered to worship Christ and scattered to witness for Christ. That’s the book of Acts. That was Epaphrus. **He lived it.** He took the baton of the gospel from Paul and he took it back to Colosse and passed it on to people who were spiritually dead and God made them spiritually alive.

After he was there for a while preaching the gospel and shepherding saints, something happened. **False teachers started showing up in this area introducing a false gospel.** Epaphrus decided to do something loving that probably didn’t appear loving. He left the church. I am sure he made a plan for the saints but he left for a season and went all the way to Rome where Paul was in prison. Epaphrus found his mentor in the faith. He

risked his life to care for Christians who needed to be protected from false teaching.

He found Paul in prison in Rome and told him what God had done in the church and he told him about the false teaching that was coming into the church. Paul wrote Colossians to protect Christians. He starts with gratitude for what God was doing in these peoples lives and then he warns them about listening to people whose teaching is based on human tradition that is damning because it is not connected to Christ.

I put this in your notes so you could understand why the letter was written:

The MacArthur Study Bible, **“Several years after the Colossian church was founded, a dangerous heresy arose to threaten it—one not identified with any particular historical system. It contained elements of what later became known as Gnosticism: that God is good, but matter is evil, that Jesus Christ was merely one of a series of emanations descending from God and being less than God (a belief that led them to deny His true humanity), and that a secret, higher knowledge above Scripture was necessary for enlightenment and salvation. The Colossian heresy also embraced aspects of Jewish legalism, e.g., the necessity of circumcision for salvation, observance of the ceremonial rituals of the OT law (dietary laws, festivals, Sabbaths), and rigid asceticism. It also called for the worship of angels and mystical experience. Epaphras was so concerned about this heresy that he made the long journey from Colosse to Rome (4:12, 13), where Paul was a prisoner.”**

When I think about the blend of false teaching that was threatening the church in Colossae it reminds me of the first time my wife and I met another couple at a Mongolian barbecue place in Lexington, Kentucky. I think it was called BD’s Mongolian Grill. It was a place where you get a bowl and you walk through a line of meats and vegetables. You put whatever you want in your bowl and then they cook it for you. You could fill your bowl with anything you wanted and then they cook it up for you. This is dangerous for a guy like me.

The only thing I filled my bowl with was meat. No vegetables of any kind entered the bowl. I filled it with different kinds of meat as full as I could get the bowl and then I handed it to the guy who cooked it up and then he gave it back to me. We sat down to eat and I remember it being one of the grossest dinners of my life. **I wouldn't have fed my meat concoction to my dog and I didn't even own a dog.** Whatever I put in that bowl was a terrible combination.

The false teaching that was starting to negatively affect the church in Colossae was a deadly combination of a wrong view of Christ and a wrong view about how sinners relate to God through Christ. It was Jesus plus something equals salvation instead of Jesus plus nothing equals salvation. The plus is what presents problems. By the way, this is still true today. Every false religion gets either the person or the work of Christ wrong. This is what Paul clarifies for them and for us.

What is interesting to me is how Paul addresses the false teaching in Colossians. I think we can all learn from how Paul addresses false teaching in his letter to the Colossians. **Paul doesn't start by attacking the false teaching.** Paul didn't think believers needed to be experts in error. Paul believed that if you teach people the truth they will be able to detect the error and stay away from it. Paul spends more time in Colossians pointing us to Christ than describing the false teaching that threatened the church.

This is where we need to be careful as a church family. Do we need to understand false teaching? Yes. We need to understand where false teaching comes from and what makes it dangerous. ***But not to the neglect of knowing our Bible's.*** Don't become an expert in false doctrine, become an expert in sound doctrine. If you become an expert in sound doctrine you will have a radar detector that goes off when something that doesn't square with Scripture is being taught.

One of my favorite guys in the church we came from in Kansas is named Timothy Ewert. Timothy is mentally handicapped. But he was the best

encourager in the church. He always had a smile on his face and he always had something positive to say. He would always tell me, “You’re a great guy.” I kinda liked hearing that. He would also tell me regularly, “I like this church because it teaches sound doctrine. I like sound doctrine.” Sound doctrine is what God gave us to guide and guard the church from error. It is healthy teaching that helps believers grow in Christ.

Tim Challies wrote an entire book on discernment called *The Discipline of Spiritual Discernment*. He writes about how the government teaches people to identify counterfeit money, “Federal agents don’t learn to spot counterfeit money by studying the counterfeits. They study genuine bills until they master the look of the real thing. Then when they see the bogus money they recognize it.” That’s what Paul does in Colossians.

Paul starts Colossians with basic gospel reminders before he tells them to see to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deception according to human tradition. **Guys, we need to be sobered up to the reality that we live in a world in which there is more false teaching and true teaching but we don’t need to be scared.** We must be sober minded but we can’t live scared. Know the truth and you’ll be able to spot false teaching.

This is why we need to all be actively involved in a healthy church. I know I am preaching to the choir - You’re here on a rainy Tuesday night. This is why we need have our kids in warriors on Tuesday nights and here on Sunday mornings. This is why we need to have our junior high and high school students in CSM on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. That is why we need to be in small groups or come to different Bible studied throughout the week. We are living in a world where there is much more false teaching than the truth. The truth is hard to find in our day. It’s more rare than a Dallas Cowboys playoff victory.

Paul helps the Colossians not by giving them new revelation. He helps them by reminding them of the gospel they received from Epaphrus and how the gospel protects us from false teaching that can destroy our relationship with God.

Now look with me at the prayer in Colossians 1 beginning in verse 9.

Colossians 1:9-12 shows us three things Paul prays for the church to walk worthy of our salvation and to protect us from false teaching:

1. **The Foundation of Paul's Prayer** - Colossians 1:9, "For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you." When Paul heard this good report from Epaphrus about what the gospel had done in the lives of these people, Paul and Timothy added the church to their prayer list.

Paul and Timothy started praying for these believers and never stopped praying for them. They didn't know these people but they loved them in the Lord and when you love someone you pray for them. Why did Paul and Timothy pray for believers? In a book called Gleanings from Paul a man named AW Pink describes three reasons the Holy Spirit included the prayers of Paul in his letters:

- a. What they requested for the saints are the particular things which Christians in all ages are to especially desire, prize, and seek an increase of
- b. God alone can impart, sustain, and promote such blessings and graces
- c. We should not only ask for these favors but must diligently strive to realize them.

"Prayer was never designed to excuse apathy, nor to relieve us of the discharge of our responsibility. We are insincere if we cry to God for certain things and do nothing ourselves to seek and secure them. To request more light from the Word or a fuller understanding of the divine will and not to continue diligently searching the Scriptures and meditating on its contents is reprehensible."

That's a strong word from Sr Pink. But it is a reminder of what we're trying to do in this class - We are trying to improve the kinds of things we pray for and we are trying to make sure what Paul prayed for is what we are

pursuing in our daily Christian lives. We need things to aim for in the Christian life. I hope we don't just use these prayers to guide our own prayer life but we seek to live out what Paul prays for. These prayers of Paul show us how to maximize our lives for the glory of Christ.

Paul didn't just pray for these people when he heard about their conversion. He kept praying for them. He didn't stop praying for them. He asked other believers like Timothy to join in praying for them. And Paul told the church what he unceasingly prayed for them.

If you and I are going to live in a world of lies and stay faithful to the truth we need to start praying for one another and never stop praying for one another. But what should we pray? What kind of things do we need to stay on the right path spiritually?

Notice number 2:

2. The Focus of Paul's Prayer – Colossians 1:9

The middle of verse 9 shows us what Paul kept praying for. Colossians 1:9, "asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Paul's focus is the heart. Paul knows that everything in the Christian life flows from the condition of our hearts or our inner man. One Pastor put it like this, "If our inward life is right (our mind, heart, desires) then our outward life will always begin to look right. When our thinking and desires are right and appropriately cultivated, our actions will follow – unfailingly."

Paul and Timothy keep asking God to fill these believers on the inside with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. Filled is a passive tense verb. The passive voice means the subject is being acted upon and is the receiver of the verbal action. Paul is asking God to fill believers with the right understanding of what God is doing in the world for His glory.

This prayer request is not just about knowing God's will to get through the day or to make an important decision. This isn't about knowing who to marry if you're not married or whether to leave your job and look for

another job. This prayer request is for Christians to understand the big plan of redemption. **It's a prayer for the Spirit who already lives in believers to help us understand the whole plan of redemption.** We keep reading and Colossians and Paul connects what he prays for to Christ.

You might be thinking, "How do you know that?" Because that is where Paul goes from Colossians 1:15 to Colossians 1:20. What Paul prays for is what he explains in the last part of the prayer. **Paul wants God to fill Christians with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding and then he reminds them about who Christ is and what Christ has done for the church and why Christ alone qualifies to be the head of the church.**

One of the most helpful classes I had in seminary was called systematic theology. I remember driving over on a Monday morning from Lexington to Louisville for class. The teacher walked in on the first day and he prayed for the class and then he asked a bunch of seminary students, "What's the whole Bible about?" I had been a Christian for about 10 years and no one had ever asked me that question.

It's a great question to consider. What is God doing from Genesis to Revelation? God is putting His glory on display through the work of Christ in the redemption of sinners. God's glory is majesty on display. In the last days God has put His majesty on display through the work of His Son. Paul goes in in the rest of Colossians 1 to remind us that Christ is sovereign over creation and redemption. Paul reminds us in Colossians 2:3 that Christ is the One "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Paul cannot think about spiritual wisdom and understanding without thinking about the person and work of Christ. Neither should we. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God. He came to reveal God and reverse the curse of sin. Believers don't need anything more than Christ to know God or please God or to be protected from false teaching.

Paul's description over in Colossians 3:11 is, "Christ is all and in all." For a believer Christ is all, Christ is everything. It doesn't get any better for a

believer than the knowledge, wisdom and understanding that are found in Christ. This is what Paul taught Epaphrus and what Epaphras taught Christians. That's the focus of Paul's prayer.

The person and work of Christ will always come under attack from Satan through false teachers. Satan was defeated by Christ at the cross. He knows it. He hates Christ. Christ will one day cast Satan into the lake of fire. Satan is a loser and he knows it and so he tries to keep as many people as he can from worshipping Jesus Christ.

That's why Colossians and the whole Bible is centered on Christ. What Satan hates, God loves. God loves His Son and wants us to find our satisfaction in worshipping Him.

We've looked at the foundation of Paul's prayer and the focus of His prayer. In verses 10-11 we see:

3. The Fleshing Out of Paul's Prayer – Colossians 1:10-12

What's the point of God filling us with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding? God works these things in us so we can live for His glory. Everyone is filled with something. If we are being filled with Colossians 1:9 notice the results in verses 10-12:

Colossians 1:10-12

“So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”

The goal of God the Holy Spirit filling our hearts with the wisdom and knowledge of God is that we would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. To walk is a way of saying how we live our lives each and every day. Stay with me here because this is really going to be a reminder to all of us how sanctification works - how we please God in our daily lives.

Walking worthy was a prevalent idea in the Greek and Roman society to which Paul wrote. The Greek word is *axios*. **It has the idea of balancing a scale or equivalence.** Remember when John the Baptist told Christ that he was not worthy to stoop down and untie his sandals. John knew his position before Christ. Romans 8 says that the sufferings of this life are not worthy to be compared to glory and what awaits a believer in the future. The eternal weight of glory doesn't measure up to the suffering we may have to go through in this life as followers of Christ. When we get to the end of this life and look into the face of Christ any amount of suffering we experienced will have all been worth it.

Paul is praying in Colossians 1:10 that the Colossian believers would live lives worthy of Christ. **Worthy in Colossians 1:10 does not mean equal, but appropriate to, equivalent to.** Paul is praying that the Colossians practice of the Christian life would grow closer and closer to their perfect position in Christ. The idea is closing the gap between position and practice.

To walk worthy of the Lord starts with knowing your position in Christ. Colossians 2:13-14 are two verses that describe our position in Christ, "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."

Did you hear those words **God made alive together with Him.** That's our position in Christ. Salvation is God making us alive together with Christ. **This is what is called union with Christ.** Being made alive together with Christ includes forgiveness of sin. John MacArthur says, "In salvation God takes the initiative to exert life giving power to awaken and unite sinners with His Son. The spiritually dead have no ability to do this - we cannot make ourselves alive with Christ. God does this through the gospel."

Our position in Christ is secure. It's settled. This is really comforting. Knowing your position in Christ is secure frees you to work on your practice. It's not about earning salvation. **It's about glorifying Christ by bringing your practice closer to your position in Him.**

A few years ago there was a see saw on the playground where my girls went to school. We were there one night after dinner and one of my little girls asked to get on the seesaw. My little blonde haired blue eyed 40 pound daughter sat on one side of the seesaw and Pastor Blake went to sit down on the other seat on the other side. What do you think happened when I sat down? My little girl flew up in the air. Why? Because I weighed so much more than her.

One side of the scales in our salvation represents our position in Christ. It's weighty. It's heavy. Everything we have in Christ is amazing. It's infinitely glorious to know our position in Christ. Our goal over time is to bring our practice closer to our position. Every day in some way we grow closer to who we already are in Christ. *Be who you are.* That's sanctification. We can't do this in our power. That's why Paul is praying. Paul knows we can't do this on our own but he also knows we're not on our own. God is with us and promises to grow us and yet we all play a part in this process.

What does this look like? I want you to picture a stop sign – in the middle you have the Greek word *axios*. Walk worthy with *axios* in the middle – walking worthy. That is our goal - to walk worthy of Christ. **On each point of the outside of the sign you have four ways to walk worthy.**

First, we walk worthy by bearing fruit in every good work. Colossians 1:10, "Bearing fruit in every good work." One author writes, "Paul cannot imagine anyone being pleasing to Christ without fruitfulness in good works." The first way we walk worthy is by striving to bear fruit in every good work by abiding in Christ and putting His Word into practice. This is where we ended last week in Philippians 1:11, "Filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God." That's what Paul continually prayed for people who know Christ.

How do you bear fruit in every good work in your own Christian life? Colossians 3:5-17 shows us specific sins to get rid of and specific acts of righteousness to replace the sin with. Colossians 3:18-21 shows us how to bear fruit in our home. Husbands and wives and Fathers and children. The end of Colossians 3 shows us how to bear fruit in the workplace. Paul prays for us to bear fruit in every good work and by the end of the letter he

shows us what to do. There is no excuse for us not bearing fruit in every good work.

Second, we walk worthy by growing in the knowledge of God. That is another point on the outside of the walking worthy sign. Colossians 1:10, “Increasing in the knowledge of God.” Another way we walk worthy is by praying, “Lord, I know you, but I want to know you more.” Close to 30 years passed when Paul wrote to the Philippians that his goal was to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. Paul’s goal was to grow more and more in the knowledge of Christ so he could love Christ more consistently.

Do we ever arrive at the place where we can take our foot off the gas when it comes to meditating on the truths about who Christ is and what Christ has done. The truth is that the older we get the more easily we forget things. Maybe it’s just me. We don’t always need new truth. We need to make sure we are believing the old truths we have been taught. **A strong doctrinal foundation is key to pleasing God.**

Third, we walk worthy by relying on the power of Christ and by persevering in the faith. Colossians 1:11, “being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience.” How are we going to endure all of the fiery darts Satan sends our way as we navigate this broken world? I will tell you how we’re not going to do it - by relying on ourselves and our own wisdom. That won’t work. We have to rely on the power of Christ and stay faithful to His word while we wait for His return.

One Pastor writes, “Great endurance and patience suggests both the kind of stamina that gets under a burden and carries it with enduring fortitude, and the kind of stamina that knows how to possess its soul in patience. Those are not virtues that are popular in our age...the truth is, they are so far beyond human capacity that they require the power of the Spirit of God...when Jesus sees these virtues in us, He is well-pleased.”

At the end of his life Paul wrote to Timothy about a difficult trial and how God strengthened him to endure it the right way. 2 Timothy 4:16-17, “At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted me; may it not be counted against them (who does that sound like, wanting your enemies to

be forgiven). But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished.” When a believer knows the truth and endures in the truth against false teaching Christ is pleased.

So, picture the stop sign - In the middle is walking worthy - axios. How? We walk worthy of the Lord by bearing fruit in every good work, fully pleasing to Him. We walk worthy by increasing in the knowledge of God. We walk worthy by trusting in God’s power to enable us to endure with patience as we wait for Christ’s return.

Fourth, we walk worthy by joyfully giving thanks to God the Father.

Colossians 1:12, “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.” This is interesting. What qualifies someone to enter the kingdom of Christ? **What qualifies us to enter is knowing we don’t qualify.** Sinners don’t qualify to enter the kingdom of Christ. God the Father qualified us.

How did he qualify us? Keep reading in Colossians 1:13-14, “For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

One author writes, “If God had perceived that our greatest need was economic he would have sent an economist. If he had perceived that our greatest need was entertainment, he would have sent us a comedian or an artist. If God had perceived that our greatest need was political stability, he would have sent us a politician. If he had perceived that our greatest need was health he would have sent us a doctor. But he perceived that our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion, our death; and He sent us a Savior... if we have been transferred out of the dominion of darkness and into the kingdom of the Son beloved by God are only appropriate response is joyful gratitude.”

Maybe you’re here tonight and you are going through a tough time. You’re struggling to maintain an attitude of gratitude. **It’s ok to choose to be thankful.** Our lives change, but God the Father’s love for us in Christ never changes. If He qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light you have something to joyously give thanks for no matter what.

Curtis Vaughan reminds us, “To “share in” the inheritance of the saints is to have a portion of the heritage belonging to God’s people...Christians have already been rescued from the dominion of darkness and are even now in the kingdom of God’s Son.” Wow! God saves us and gave us an inheritance and we are protected by God’s power for that future inheritance (Read 1 Peter 1:3-5).

Paul’s letter to the Colossians is a very important letter for our Christian lives. In four chapters Paul reminds us who Jesus Christ is, what He has done for us and how to live for His glory. Paul begins the protection letter with prayer. “The letter begins and ends in Paul’s intercessory advocacy that God will impart grace to impact the believers (1:2; 4:18).” Paul knew that God is the keeper of His people and so Paul prayed for God to keep working in the hearts of His people.

Colossians 1:9-14 shows us some important things about prayer. I trust sometime this week you will go back through this prayer with a cup of coffee or whatever it takes to help you stay focused. Go back through it and pray it for yourself and for other people and make it your goal to live it for God’s glory. Love you guys. Let’s pray.