

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1:

Gospel Growth
Colossians 1:9-14

Slide 2:

Colossians 1:9-14 (ESV)

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, 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; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered 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.

Slide 3:

What is the Problem?
What is the Prayer?
Where is the Power?

Slide 4:

The Problem

"And so, from the day we heard (?), we have not ceased to pray for you..."

Slide 5:

Colossians 1:3-4 (ESV)

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus (saved) and of the love that you have for all the saints (result)

Colossians 1:8 (ESV)

and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Slide 6:

The problem was not too much love, but not enough wisdom and truth.

Slide 7:

The Prayer

The Prayer is for Gospel Maturity

Slide 8:

Colossians 1:9 (ESV)

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

Slide 9:

Colossians 1:10-11 (ESV)

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; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy

Slide 10:

The Power

Colossians 1:12-14 (ESV)

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered 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.

Slide 11:

John 1:27 (ESV)

"even He who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read Colossians 1:9-14. What do you see in this prayer? What is Paul praying for? Why do you think this church is lacking in knowledge and understanding?

2) How hard is it to love and to be truthful? Can you think of instances where you felt like you had to choose one over the other?

What is the problem with "love" becoming the defining essence of the church at the expense of truth? What is the problem with "truth" becoming the defining essence of the church at the expense of love? Did Jesus die because He loved us, or because truth demanded a substitution? (Hint: They MUST be held together)

3) Paul prays that they (we) walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to be fully pleasing to God. How is that possible?

4) Is it possible that all of our problems derive from not fully understanding or appropriating that Jesus did something to qualify, deliver and transfer us? What are we still looking for? Why do we still feel like we need deliverance?

5) Prayer and praise