

Col 1:9-14
“How to Pray For a Friend”

Introduction

- The church in Colosse was located in the Lycus Valley of Asia Minor at the time, but today it is in the area we know as the nation of Turkey.
- One of the interesting things about this letter is the fact that Paul had never visited Colosse.
- He is writing to people, most of whom he has never met personally.
- The church was started by a man named Epaphras who probably came to know the Lord indirectly through Paul’s ministry. While Paul was staying in Ephesus, about 100 miles from Colosse, a convert from Ephesus, probably Epaphras, traveled back home to bring them the Gospel.
- Heresy has come into the church and Epaphras is not sure what to do with it. He travels to Rome to seek out Paul and get his help.
- Paul is going to address these issues in the following chapters.

Today’s passage:

Col 1:9-14

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- **to pray** (*proseuchomai*) – (pros = to; towards) + (euchomai= to pray; worship)- to offer prayers; to worship; **continual praying**.
- **ask** (*aiteo*) – to ask, **beg**, crave, desire; **continual asking**

Col 1:3

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**,

Paul then tells us five things that he has been praying for the church in Colosse:

1. To be **filled** with the **knowledge of God’s will** (vs. 9)
2. To **walk worthy** of the Lord (vs. 10)
3. To be **fruitful** in **every good work** (vs. 10)
4. To be **increasing** in **their knowledge of God** (vs. 10)
5. To be **strengthened** for all patience and longsuffering (vs. 11)

1:9 Do not cease to pray for you

Col 1:9

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the **knowledge** of His will in all **wisdom** and spiritual **understanding**

A. For this reason

In the previous verses Paul says, that he has heard of their:

- Belief in the gospel
- And the love they had for all the saints

B. We also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you,

First, we see that Paul and Timothy had not ceased to pray. There are times when we think that we may as well give up.

After ten years of praying

1 Thes. 5:17 pray without ceasing

2 Thes 3:13 But as for you, brethren, do not grow weary in doing good.

Gal 6:9 And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

Maybe it has been days, years, or decades since you started praying for someone, but don't stop praying! Jesus talks much about the persistence in Prayer (Luke 11; Luke 18)

Before we get into the “prayer”**Note:**

Notice Paul doesn't teach us to pray for all the earthly needs, but for growth in Christ.

C. And to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will

This is to be our “lifelong pursuit”; “*to know the Will of God*”.

In particular to know God's will, especially when it comes to the area of prayer:

1 John 5:14-15

14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.** 15 And **if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.**

It appears that John is clarifying what he had said earlier in the gospel about God.

Earlier it said, in the Gospel of John:

John 14:12-14

12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

13 "**And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do,** that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "**If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.**

It appears that when the Apostles heard Jesus, they understood that prayer was a means to get “**God's**” will done, and **NOT** a means to get “**their**” will done!!!

D. In all wisdom

In getting wisdom we have to understand the “nature” of God.

- Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- James 1:17d... with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

And through knowing the word.

2 Tim 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

E. And spiritual understanding

This is where God's spirit reveals His truth and His nature, typically through His Word.

1 Cor 2:10

10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

1 Cor 2:12-13

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

F. Notice these 3: knowledge ... wisdom ... understanding

Paul talks more about obtaining knowledge than anyone else in the Bible.

1 Cor 1:4-5

4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge,

Eph 1:17-18

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

- Knowledge = Information
- Wisdom = to know how to apply that information in our lives specifically
- Understanding = the ability to practical do it

1:10 That you may walk worthy of the Lord
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Col 1:10

...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

A. That you may walk worthy of the Lord

Paul now address the issue of “**sanctification**”.

Note:

Let’s not confuse the issue by saying, “Paul is talking about “**justification**”, and then tell people that if they are not walking in a manner worthy of the Lord it is because they are not really saved or that they need to repent and give their lives to the Lord again. Or it might be that they only thought they were saved, but the fact that they are not walking as a good Christian, proves that they didn’t have “real saving faith” the first time.

As born-again Christians we can be “born-again” and still not walk as we ought to walk in “sanctification”.

We see many examples of this in the New Testament:

1. Peter had to be rebuked by Paul for being a “hypocrite” while in Galatia. (Gal 2).

Gal 2:11-13

11 Now when Peter had come to Antioch, **I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed**; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, **fearing those who were of the circumcision**. 13 And **the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him**, so that **even Barnabas** was **carried away with their hypocrisy**.

2. A man married his step-mother and the church accepted it as ok. (1 Cor 5)

1 Cor 5:1

It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--**that a man has his father's wife!**

1 Cor 5:3-5

3 For I indeed, as absent in body but present in spirit, have already judged (as though I were present) him who has so done this deed. 4 In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, 5 **deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus**.

3. Young men (i.e. maybe pastors, teachers) who were teaching heresy.(1 Tim 1)

1 Tim 1:18-20

18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,

19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, **whom I delivered to Satan** that **they may learn not to blaspheme**.

Notice it doesn't say that they are not "really Christians"! But Paul says they are going to be severely spanked by Dad (i.e. God our Father), to learn not to blaspheme. Paul would not want a "non-believer" to learn this, but it is something that he would want for a true child of God to learn.

4. The Thessalonica church was saying that sanctification is not important, so live as you desire, especially in the area of sexual sin.

1 Thes 4:1-8

1 Finally then, brethren, **we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God**; 2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

3 For **this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality**; 4 that **each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor**,

5 **not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God**;

6 that **no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such**, as we also forewarned you and testified.

7 **For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness**.

8 Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.

5. When the Corinthian church was not walking in maturity, Paul rebukes them and warns them about the possibility of loss of rewards. (1 Cor 3)

1 Cor 3:1

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

1 Cor 3:11-16

11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. 14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. 16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Important note:

Many more examples could be given, but the bottom line is that they were not told by Paul to wonder or doubt if they ever were saved or not, but that they would understand that God had "saved" them for not just the "next life", but for

“this life as well”. This was because they were called to bear good fruit, to be a light to the world, and to store up treasure in heaven.

B. Fully pleasing Him,

As we walk in “sanctification and honor”, we walk in a way that pleases God. There should be no greater desire or motive other than just to please the Lord.

To live like Jesus did:

John 8:29

"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him.**"

Matt 3:17

And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**"

1. The questions for us is , “Are we seeking to do” those things that , “always please the Father”?

Rom 8:5-8

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
8 **So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

2. Simply ask yourself, “Is this thing I am thinking about, or doing, or about to do, is it something where God is going to be “LOVED”? If not, then you are not “FULLY” pleasing Him in every respect.

Matt 22:37

Jesus said to him, "**You shall love the LORD your God** with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

1 John 5:3

For **this is the love of God**, that we keep His commandments. **And His commandments are not burdensome.**

Note:

Some might spend their lives asking, “What is right or wrong?”, or “What is carnal?” But the real questions are, “What are the things that “please” the Father?”, and “In what ways can I love on God today?”

C. Being fruitful in every good work

We are not to just do good works, but do them in the right spirit, and in a way that Jesus would do it like fully pleasing God as Jesus did!!

John 15:7-8

7 **If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you,** you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 **By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.**

D. And increasing in the knowledge of God

The knowledge (*epignosis*) – precise and correct knowledge; a fuller, clearer, more thorough knowledge; **knowledge based on experience.**

Note:

Back in **verse 9**, the issue was the *knowledge* of **“God’s will”**.

Here in **verse 10** the issue is the *knowledge* **“of God”**.

Jer 9:23-24a

23 Thus says the LORD:

"Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom,

Let not the mighty man glory in his might,

Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

24 But let him who glories glory in this,

That he understands and knows Me,

This is speaking of “experience” gained by walking with God, we do this by **mainly going through the “experience” we receive, as we study and learn the knowledge of God and His nature through the Bible.**

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,

Nor stands in the path of sinners,

Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD,

And in His law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree

Planted by the rivers of water,

That brings forth its fruit in its season,

Whose leaf also shall not wither;

And whatever he does shall prosper.

Joshua 1:7-8

7 "Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; **do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.**

8 "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, **that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

1:11 Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power
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Col 1:11

...strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

A. “Strengthened” with all “might”,

Strengthened (*dunamoo*) – to make strong; this too is a similar word to “might”

Might (*dunami*s) – strength, power, ability

Thus, Paul is literally praying for them to be “powered with all power”, or “strengthened with all strength”, or perhaps even better, “enabled with all ability”.

Both of these Greek words are based on a simple Greek word (**dunamai**), from which we get our word dynamite, and this word is often translated “to be able”. **God makes us “able” to do powerful things that only God can do.**

Such as in:

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive **“power”** (*dunamai*) **when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

When we open ourselves up to the work of the Holy Spirit and allow Him to fill our lives, He gives us “power”, “might”, or even more important, **“ability”**.

We often think of the Holy Spirit’s work as giving us “dynamite” power (a related word), but it’s probably better to think of it as “dynamic” power that the Holy Spirit **“makes you able”**. Like in Acts 1:8, **He makes us able to be witnesses.**

The strength is according to “His glorious might” which means, it is from an infinite supply of being abled by God!!!

B. According to His glorious power,

Glorious (*doxa*) – splendor, brightness

Power (*kratos*) – force, strength; might; dominion

Five other times these 2 words **“power and glory”** were found together, all used to describe who **God** is, such as in Rev 5.

Rev 5:13

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

"Blessing and honor and **glory and power**

Be to Him who sits on the throne,

And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

C. For all patience and longsuffering with joy

The Greek word for “**patience**” (hupomone) – “to hupo” = **to remain**; “mone” = **under**
The Greek word “**longsuffering**” (makrothumia) - from longanimity, also forbearance.

These two words would definitely cover both with “**people**” (*patience*) and “**circumstances**” (*steadfastness*).

1 Cor 15:58

Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding** in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

The goal is to be able to endure both of these **with joy!**

1:12 God has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

Col 1:12

...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

A. Giving thanks

God is revealing to us through the Apostle Paul that a “heart of faith” will start and end with a prayer of “thanksgiving”!!

Phil 4:6

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, **with thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God;

Col 1:3

We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Psalms 100:4

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving,

And into His courts with praise.

Be thankful to Him, and bless His Name.

Thanksgiving is the “gate” in which we enter into God’s presence!!!

B. To the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light

God so loved us that He gave His only begotten so...not perish...have eternal life....But also, “WITH” a whole host of others who love our Lord Jesus.

Rev 5:9-14

⁹And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood

**Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,
¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God;
 And we shall reign on the earth.**”

¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; **and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,**

¹² saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
 To receive power and riches and wisdom,
 And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them,
 I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power
 Be to Him who sits on the throne,
 And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

1:13 God has delivered us from darkness to light

Col 1:13

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

A. He has delivered us from the power of darkness

Delivered (*rhuomai*) –to rescue, to deliver (*i.e. a complete past action*)

Example: Like one would be deliver by a rescuer from drowning.

Remember our past condition before we believed and were delivered?

John 3:19

"And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.**

Eph 2:1-6

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus,

Jesus uses this same phrase as He was being arrested:

Luke 22:53

"When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. **But this is your hour, and the power of darkness.**"

B. And conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love

Conveyed (*methistemi*) – transfer, remove from one place to another

John 17:20-23

20 "I do not pray for these alone, **but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;**

21 "that **they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You;** that **they also may be one in Us,** that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 "And **the glory which You gave Me I have given them,** that **they may be one just as We are one:**

23 "**I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one,** and that the world may know that You have sent Me, **and have loved them as You have loved Me.**

1:14 We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins

Col 1:14

...in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

A. In whom we have redemption through His blood,

Redemption (*apolutrosis*) – a releasing effected by payment of ransom

A purchase - by paying a price that was required.

Or like a slave being set free.

Rom 6:23 For **the wages of sin is death,** but **the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 knowing that you were **not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold,** from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 **but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

B. The forgiveness of sins

Forgiveness (*aphesis*) – release from bondage or imprisonment; forgiveness or pardon, from the **root of** (*aphiemi*) – **to send away**

The word translated **forgiveness** is the ancient Greek word (*aphesis*), most literally rendered, **"a sending away."**

Our sin and guilt is **"sent away"** because of what Jesus did on the cross for us.

Psalms 103:12

As far as **the east is from the west,**

So far has He removed our transgressions from us.

Micah 7:19c ...You will cast all our sins Into the depths of the sea.

Isaiah 43:25

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins.

- **Acts 3:19** Repent therefore, and turn again, **that your sins may be blotted out,**
- **Jer 31:34d** ...**For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.**"
- **Heb 8:12b** **and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.**"
- **Heb 10:17** then He adds, "**Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.**"

Conclusion

Who is someone this week you could be praying this prayer for?

Let's pray for each other.

Let's walk worthy.

And Let us, ***know: the Word of God***, know **God's will**, and know **God Himself!**

Let's examine our own life:

- Are we walking worthy
- Are we growing in the knowledge of God
- Are we thankful and live with a thankful heart.
 - Thankful for redemption we have as a gift from Christ Jesus
 - And the forgiveness of sins through His sacrifice on the Cross