
Book of Colossians

— Lesson 2 - Paul's Thanks and
Prayer for Spiritual Maturity —

Colossians 1:3-14

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Paul's Appreciation for the Colossians

Colossians 1:3-5

- Addressed directly to **God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**
 - Paul had only **heard** about the Colossians.
Apparently he had not been to Colossae.
1. Their **faith** in Christ Jesus – happened in their *past*.
 2. Their **love** for all the saints – happening in the *present*.
 3. Their **hope** of heaven – laid up for them in their *future*.
- They previously **heard** the **word of truth** – the message about all that Christ accomplished on our behalf + how to receive those truths by faith.



Paul's Appreciation for the Colossians

Colossians 1:6-8

- The **gospel** is universal in its application and impact (whole known world).
- The **gospel** has an immediate effect (since the day you heard).
- They **understood** (*epignosis*) – thoroughly understanding, recognizing the importance, accepting and applying personally.
- **Learned** from **Epaphras** – Paul's representative; a Colossian himself.
- He is a **beloved fellow bond-servant** and **faithful minister** of Christ who had taught them well. They had already learned all of the basic truths of the Christian faith and were demonstrating their knowledge through family love in the household of faith.



Paul's Prayer for their Spiritual Maturity

Colossians 1:9 – *gaining and applying godly knowledge*

- **Filled** (*plerōo*) – to completely fill to capacity
- **Knowledge** (*epignosis*) of His will – more than mere knowledge, this means thoroughly understanding, recognizing the importance, accepting and applying something personally in our lives.
- In all **spiritual wisdom** (*sophia*) – the ability to use knowledge appropriately and correctly.
- **Understanding** (*sunesis*) – “flowing together” – mentally putting together ideas and actions to gain the best result.



Paul's Prayer for their Spiritual Maturity

Colossians 1:10 – *the cycle of Spiritual Maturity*

- **Walk** (*peripateo*) – “daily walk and life or lifestyle.”
What we believe will affect how we behave.
- **Worthy** of the Lord – Should not live as unbelievers live.
- **Please** Him in all respects – knowing God's will and His ways leads to living in ways that please Him.
- **Bearing fruit** in good works – grow into productive service for God.
- **Increasing** in knowledge – if we gain godly knowledge and we demonstrate that knowledge in a pleasing and productive lifestyle, then God is able to increase our knowledge even more.



Paul's Prayer for their Spiritual Maturity

Colossians 1:11 – *the strength to live a godly life*

- **Strengthened** with all **power** (*dunamis*) – literally “powered with all power.”
- **His glorious might** – God is the source of this power; His glorious might is at work within us.
- **Attain all steadfastness** (*hupomone*) – “patiently enduring difficult circumstances.”
- **Patience** (*makrothumia*) – “longsuffering or forbearance toward difficult people.”
- **Joyously** (*chara*) – handling difficult circumstances & people with cheerfulness brings glory to God.



Paul's Prayer for their Spiritual Maturity

Colossians 1:12 – *thankfulness & our future inheritance*

- **Giving thanks to the Father** – acknowledges that every situation is in His hands and under His control.
- He has **qualified** us – we could never earn this ourselves.
- The **inheritance** of the saints – what we endure here (Col 1:11) is nothing compared to the believers' glorious inheritance in the future.
- Yet another way of expressing the **hope laid up in heaven** for us (Col 1:5).
- In God's glorious **light** – contrast to the darkness described in the next verse.



Paul's Prayer for their Spiritual Maturity

Colossians 1:13-14 – *rescue, transfer, redemption & forgiveness*

- **the Father** – **rescues** (*rhuomai*) and **transfers** (*metestēsen*); He “draws or pulls” us to Himself and guarantees our new membership status in the kingdom of His Son.
- **kingdom** – just as God made us legal heirs of our heavenly inheritance which we will ultimately possess in the future according to Colossians 1:12, so He also guarantees our legal status as members of Christ’s future kingdom.
- **in Christ** – we have **redemption** (*apolutrōsis*) and **forgiveness** (*aphesis*) of sins. Christ “paid the ransom price to secure our release” and He “sends away” our sins.



Application

- How is your prayer life? Given Paul's example, what steps can you take that might make you even more productive in prayer?
- What changes should you make in your life that would allow God to fill you with more knowledge of His will? Are there *distractions* you should eliminate or *activities* you should make a priority?
- Are you putting your knowledge into practice by living to please the Lord and being productive for His work?
- Is there an area of your life which you are having a difficult time handling in your own strength? Ask God for His strength.
- Give thanks to God for all the believer's blessings He has given to you.

Great is Thy Faithfulness!

