

## Colossians 1:9-16 – We Pray for You

After a standard greeting, Paul expressed thanks for the church in Colossae. They exhibited faith in Christ and love for other Christians. They were growing in their faith as a result of hearing the gospel from Epaphras and having come to know the grace of God. After giving thanks, Paul shared with the church in Colossae what he was praying for them. Paul shared his prayer requests for the Colossians in verses 9-12. Verses 14-16 begin a wonderful section on who Christ is and what he has done.

### **Read Colossians 1:9-13.**

Based on verse 9, what did Paul, and those with him, do when they heard about the Colossians' faith and love? (1:9)

What were Paul's requests to God for the Colossians? In verse 9? In verse 10? In verse 11? In verse 12? (1:9-12)

Knowledge was a point of emphasis in the letter. In verse 9, what knowledge did Paul pray that the Colossians would have? In verse 10 Paul prayed that they would increase in the knowledge of God. How do Christians increase in the knowledge of God? (1:9-10)

What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord? See the note at the top of page 2. (1:10)

What did Paul pray that the Colossians would be strengthened for? At the end of verse 11 is "with joy". Many versions translate the end of the verse as "patience and longsuffering with joy." (or something like it). NASB and NIV, among others, translate verses 11 and 12 so that the "joy" describes how the Colossians should be thankful and not how they should be patient and longsuffering. (1:11)

In verse 12, was Paul being thankful or was Paul praying that the Colossians would be thankful? What did the Colossians have to be thankful for? Are we living in Christ's kingdom now or is Christ's kingdom still future? (1:12-13)

Verses 9-14 make up one long, complex sentence. It can be broken down as follows:

we pray for you

1. that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will
2. that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
  - a) bearing fruit in every good work
  - b) increasing in the knowledge of God
  - c) being empowered for all endurance and patience
  - d) giving thanks to the Father

Basis for thanks – the Father (from d) has delivered us and the Son has redeemed us and provided forgiveness of sins.

### **Read Colossians 1:14-16.**

Verse 14 is a bridge between Paul's prayer in the previous verses and verses 15-20 which focus on Christ alone. In verse 14, what has Christ, the Father's beloved Son, done for us? (1:14)

How is Jesus the image of the invisible God? See John 1:14, 18 and Hebrews 1:1-3. (1:15)

What does it mean that Jesus is the "firstborn" of all creation? How does verse 16 shed light on what this term means? (1:15-16)

Verse 16 states that all things were created by Jesus? This statement is similar to John 1:3 "all things were made through him and without him was not any thing made." What does this statement say about who Jesus is? (1:16)

Based on verse 16, what all was included in what was created through Jesus? What is the significance that "all things were created through him and for him"? (1:16)