

Colossians

(2) Paul's love for the Colossians

Col 1:1-8

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel 6 that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit. NIV

Paul's relationship with the church at Colossae...1:1-8

What did Paul want the Colossians to know about himself, relative to them? 1:3a, 9a

What *kind* of prayer was this? How is it described? 1:9-10 (Example of Prayerful abiding)

How does Paul's *prayer content* compare with most of our prayers? Comment?

What was the testimony of the Colossians? 1:4 Where did this originate? 1:5-6; Rom.10:17

Was this result in Colossae unique? 1:6a; Is.55:10-11 Comment?

What is at the *heart* of the Gospel? 1:6b; Eph.2:8-10; Acts 15:11, 20:24; Rom.3:21-25, 11:6

Who/why had preached the Gospel to those at Colossae? 1:7-8 (Example of Making Disciples)

Paul's prayers for the Colossians...1:9-10

As Paul continuously prayed for them, what was his first objective? 1:9-10a; Eph.4:1; Phil.1:27

Application: Scripture reveals God's 'general' will for us. Absolute / unchanging principles. How does knowing His 'general' will guide us to His 'specific' (situational) will? Heb.13:7-9

What does, *pleasing Him in every way*, look like? 1:10:b

So, what's more important, having the knowledge of God or doing the good works?

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Paul's relationship with the church at Colossae...1:1-8

What did Paul want the Colossians to know about himself, relative to them? 1:3a, 9a

That he prayed for them and thanked God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for them.

What kind of prayer was this? How is it described? 1:9-10 (Example of Prayerful abiding)

It was immediate and consistent. For their spiritual 'knowledge, wisdom, understanding'.

How does Paul's prayer content compare with most of our prayers? Comment?

Spiritual strength v.s. physical. Nothing wrong w/physical but not to exclusion of spiritual!

What was the testimony of the Colossians? 1:4 Where did this originate? 1:5-6; Rom.10:17

Their faith (in Christ) and love, springing from their hope heard from the Word of Truth.

Was this result in Colossae unique? 1:6a; Is.55:10-11 Comment?

No! The Gospel truth bears fruit all over the world! That's why we preach the Gospel!!

What is at the heart of the Gospel? 1:6b; Eph.2:8-10; Acts 15:11, 20:24; Rom.3:21-25, 11:6

It is God's grace (unmerited favor) in all its truth. For by grace are you saved...

Who/why had preached the Gospel to those at Colossae? 1:7-8 (Example of Making Disciples)

Epaphras, who was from Colossae, saved under Paul's preaching; sent back...

Paul's prayers for the Colossians...1:9-10

As Paul continuously prayed for them, what was his first objective? 1:9-10a; Eph.4:1; Phil.1:27

Filled (ready to sail) w/knowledge of His will so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord.

Application: Scripture reveals God's 'general' will for us. Absolute / unchanging principles.

How does knowing His 'general' will guide us to His 'specific' (situational) will? Heb.13:7-9

God's specific will for us will NEVER contradict His 'general' will revealed in Scripture!

What does, *pleasing Him in every way*, look like? 1:10:b

Bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God. All very visible!

So, what's more important, having the knowledge of God or doing the good works?