

:00 (1) Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God --- and Timothy our brother --- to the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you, and peace from God our Father.

(3) 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 and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the Gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing --- as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

(9) 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: [a] bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; [b] being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; [c] giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

(13) 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!

Note: Colosse was a prosperous city on the East-West highway between Ephesus and the Euphrates River, being located in the Lycas Valley about 11 miles from Laodicea --- 100 miles east of Ephesus on the Mediterranean coast of modern-day Turkey. The city declined when the highway was rerouted in the 700s A.D., and then it was destroyed by the Turks in the 1100s A.D. It was not rebuilt.

Think on these things:

- 1) V.4 confirms a truth about Paul and Colossae: he's never been there personally. It was never recorded as a stop on any of his missionary journeys. What two things had he heard about them? Where do these two things come from (v.5)

**The church at Colossae had a reputation for believers' faith in God, as well as their love for God saints everywhere. Paul recognized these traits as a response to new found hope in a heavenly future as explained clearly in the Gospel.**

- 2) How does Paul describe the Gospel in v.5? **The Gospel is (God's) Word of Truth.**
- 3) What does he say is happening as the Gospel is being shared "all over the world," just as he perceives it happening in Colosse?

**The Gospel is bearing fruit and growing, i.e., people are responding in faith to the hope it extends.**

- 4) Quickly check out Colossians 4:12. Who, in v.7, brought the Gospel to the Colossians, and where is he from? How does Paul refer to him?

**Epaphras, from their area, shared the Gospel with them. Paul refers to him as a fellow servant and says Epaphras always prays for the Colossian church. He may have been the elder**

- 5) According to v.9, what was Paul steadily praying for on behalf of the Colossians?

**Paul wants the Colossian believers to be filled with knowledge of God's Will for them, both understanding it and employing wisdom (using knowledge to make correct choices).**

- 6) From v.10, what 2 reasons does Paul give for praying for them about this? The second reason is confirmed in loving obedience. What would the first reason look like in your life?

Two reasons? **1) to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord that bears fruit in good works and pleases God; and 2) increasing in their knowledge of God**

In me...? **Personal answers. Looking for honesty as how "my faith" leads me into doing good works that are bearing fruit for God's work in our world. Do I lead, teach, testify, invite, support, assist, feed, etc...?**

- 7) Paul describes three "progress" developments for believers related to pleasing God in vs. 10-11a (denoted in the scripture above as [a], [b], and [c]). What "pleases" the Lord? Which of these could be a focus for you to work on?

Progress [a] – **Bearing fruit for God's Kingdom by doing good works He has appointed for me to do (Eph 2:10), while also growing in my knowledge of God's Word. Bearing fruit requires that I "abide" in Christ Jesus (i.e., not try to do God's work in my own strength, John 15:1-5)**

Progress [b] – **Allowing God's strength to empower me to show endurance living as a Christian in this life, while demonstrating patience (to others/myself) through the process --- joyfully!**

Progress [c] – **Showing gratitude and thankfulness for being redeemed as one of God's saints.**

For my focus? **Personal answer. Involvement in 'fruitful' good works? Growing in my knowledge of God's Word? Not quitting my faith? Showing patience towards others? Being a joyful person in life? Regularly expressing my gratitude and thankfulness to God (testimony)?**

- 8) What has God delivered us from (v.13) to bring us into the Kingdom of His Son (Ephesians 6:12)?

**God (the Father) has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Jesus). Eph – This is a spiritual battle against the powerful forces of darkness that exist even in heavenly places....**

- 9) How is God's redemption in Jesus described in v.14? Did you need this to be right with God?

**Redemption is --- the forgiveness of sins. We are 'bought back' by God when, in faith, we allow Him to solve our sin problem by trusting in Jesus' death on the cross to pay our penalty. (This is an invitation moment for people to place their faith in Jesus!)**

People and situations I want to pray for this week: