

THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

The Fullness of Deity Dwelling in Christ

Filled with the Knowledge of His Will

Colossians 1:9-12

Introduction: In this study we come to the prayer that Paul and his colleagues are actually praying for the Colossians. It gives us insight into how to pray for others who are struggling in their faith and suggests a focus of prayer that is clear and yields specific results. Even though the results Paul and his companions desire are not specifically measurable, they are clearly observable when developed in the lives of the Colossian believers.

I. We have not ceased to pray and to ask...

- A. As we discovered last week in the phrase *praying always*, prayer is not a simple one time request—effective intercession is a process.
 - 1. People are not attacked once by the devil and then left alone
 - 2. The same focus of intercession has many facets which develop in prayer over time
 - 3. The word **to ask** is the Greek word for *begging* or *imploring* and carries with it a great deal of emotion and desperation—a lot of passion
- B. The ministry of intercession is focused, passionate, and persistent in securing the blessing of God for others. Truly it is a process, not because God is an *unjust judge* or *hears us because of vain repetitions*, but because praying through an issue on behalf of people we love requires deep communion with God to discern His will and purpose for them.

II. ...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will...

- A. It cannot be over-emphasized that effective and fervent prayer is not about getting what we want for ourselves so much as it is securing what God wants for us and His Kingdom.
- B. It is vitally important that the Colossians, first of all, know the will of God for them and for the Kingdom as it is expressed in Colossae. In all of Scripture we are continually informed that the place of blessing and safety is in the will of God—for to be out of the will of God is to be opposing Him.
- C. Do you pray for yourself and for others that you/they might know the will of God? Do you have the *big, Kingdom picture*? Have you seen what God is doing and have you joined Him in it?

III. ...in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...

- A. The natural man does not understand the things of the Spirit...Paul writes to the Corinthians. We need spiritual eyes to see spiritual realities and we need spiritual wisdom to apply what we know about God and His purposes to each situation in life.
- B. Spiritual understanding is a comprehension of truth about God and His will that gives meaning to life. We understand a great deal about the why of life, economics, politics, and world events.
- C. The difference between spiritual wisdom and spiritual understanding is the difference between application (wisdom) and knowledge (understanding).

Conclusion: The all important focus of our praying is to perceive and act upon the will of God. For ourselves and others to be walking in His will, obedient to His voice, and concerned about His Kingdom is the place of blessing and security as well as the place of intimacy with God. We become a people after His own heart. Are you filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding? Is this your fervent prayer for those whom God has placed upon your heart?

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1: 1-8
(NASB)

