

## Colossians 1:9-14 PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIANS!

1/28/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente

“Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior – Frances J. Crosby – sung by Joslin Grove Choral Society

*1 Pass me not, O gentle Savior, Hear my humble cry; While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.*

*Refrain: Savior, Savior, Hear my humble cry, While on others Thou art calling, Do not pass me by.*

*2 Thou the spring of all my comfort, More than life to me, Whom have I on earth beside Thee, Whom in Heav'n but Thee. (Refrain – 2X)*

**Context/Biblical Background** – If Ephesians can be labeled the epistle portraying the “church of Christ,” Then Colossians must surely be the “Christ of the Church”. Ephesians focuses on the body: Colossians focuses on the Head. Paul’s purpose is to show that Christ is preeminent—first and foremost in everything – and the Christian’s life should reflect that priority. Because believers are rooted in Him, alive in Him, hidden in Him, and complete in Him, it is totally inconsistent for them to live life without Him. Clothed in His love, with His peace ruling in their hearts, they are equipped to make Christ first in every area of life.

**PAUL’S PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIANS - Col 1:9-14** *For this reason (vs. 6 - “And knew the grace of God in truth.”) we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; [10] that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; [11] strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; [12] giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. [13] He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, [14] in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.*

### **1. (Col 1:9-11) Paul petitions God on behalf of the Colossians.**

- **To ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will:** First, Paul prayed that they would have a **knowledge of His will**, informed by a true **spiritual understanding**. To *know God* and *what He requires of us* is our first responsibility.
  - “If you read this epistle through, you will observe that Paul frequently alludes to knowledge and wisdom. To the point in which he judged the church to be deficient he turned his prayerful attention. He would not have them ignorant. He knew that spiritual ignorance is the constant source of error, instability, and sorrow; and therefore he desired that they might be soundly taught in the things of God.” (Spurgeon)
  - Every believer needs to have “the knowledge of His will.” The Greek word translated “knowledge” in this verse carries the meaning of “full knowledge.” There is always more to learn about God and His will for our lives. No Christian would ever dare to say that he had “arrived” and needed to learn nothing more.
- **That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him:** Second, Paul prayed that they would live according to the same knowledge they received, living out a **walk worthy of the Lord**.
  - This is a familiar pattern, repeated over and over again in the New Testament. Our walk is based on our knowledge of God and our understanding of His will.
  - No other experience is needed than the new birth. “Do not look for something new,” Paul warned the church. “Continue to grow in that which you received at the beginning” (paraphrase).
- **Being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.** This is how we can be **fully pleasing** to God and how we can have a **worthy walk**.
  - This is an echo of Jesus’ thought in Joh 15:7-8: *If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*
  - “ ‘Fruitful in every good work.’ Here is room and range enough - in ‘every good work.’ Have you the ability to preach the gospel? Preach it! Does a little child need comforting? Comfort it! Can you stand up and vindicate a glorious truth before thousands? Do it! Does a poor saint need a bit

of dinner from your table? Send it to her. Let works of obedience, testimony, zeal, charity, piety, and philanthropy all be found in your life. Do not select big things as your special he, but glorify the Lord also in the little - ‘ fruitful in every good work.’” (Spurgeon)

- **Strengthened with all might:** As we **walk worthy of the Lord**, His strength is there to help us meet all of life’s challenges, and to endure and overcome problems with circumstances (**patience**) and people (**longsuffering**) with joy.
- God’s power is evidenced in our lives also in our joyfulness. When circumstances are difficult, we should exhibit joyful patience; and when people are hard to live with, we should reveal joyful long-suffering.

## 2. (*Col 1:12-14*) Paul’s specific thanks to the Father.

- **Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us:** In the divine administration, the Father is mentioned in connection with the broad sweep of His plan of redemption. He is the Person of the Trinity who *initiates* the plan of the ages.
- One of the evidences of spiritual growth in our Bible study is *thanksgiving* (*Col\_3:15-17*). Our prayers should always include *thanksgiving* (*Col\_4:2*). The Christian who is filled with the Spirit, filled with the Word, and watching in prayer will prove it by his attitude of appreciation and thanksgiving to God.
- **To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints:** It is the Father who qualifies us, not our own works. We gain this as an **inheritance**, instead of earning it as a wage.
- **He has delivered us from the power of darkness:** Christians have been **delivered** from Satan’s domain. The word has the idea of a rescue by a sovereign power.
  - Another place where this same phrase for **power of darkness** is used is in *Luk 22:53*, where Jesus spoke of the darkness surrounding His arrest and passion in the same terms.
  - The **power of darkness** may be seen in its effects, and for those who have been **delivered . . . from the power of darkness** these effects should be less and less evident in the life.
  - The power of darkness: lulls us to sleep; is skilled at concealment; afflicts and depresses man; can fascinate us; emboldens some men.
  - “Beloved, we still are tempted by Satan, but we are not under his power; we have to fight with him, but we are not his slaves. He is not our king; he has no rights over us; we do not obey him; we will not listen to his temptations.” (Spurgeon)
- **And conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love:** The word we translate **conveyed** had a special significance in the ancient world. When one empire conquered another, the custom was to take the population of the defeated empire and transfer it completely to the conqueror’s land. In this sense we have been **conveyed** into God’s kingdom. Everything we have and everything we are now belongs to Him.
  - **The Son of His love** is a Hebraic way of saying “God’s dear Son.” It is Christ’s Kingdom in which he is King. He has moral and spiritual sovereignty.
- **In whom we have redemption through His blood: Redemption** has the idea of release by a legal ransom. The price for our release was paid by the blood of Jesus.
  - This is one reason why pleading the blood of Jesus - in the right sense, not in a magical or superstitious sense - has such great significance in spiritual warfare. It shows the “receipt” of our lawful purchase as redeemed people.
  - He *redeemed* us - This word means “to release a prisoner by the payment of a ransom.” By His death and resurrection, Jesus met the holy demands of God’s Law. Satan seeks to accuse us and imprison us because he knows we are guilty of breaking God’s Law. But the ransom has been paid on Calvary, and through faith in Jesus Christ, we have been set free.
- **The forgiveness of sins:** The word translated **forgiveness** is the ancient Greek word *aphesis*, most literally rendered “a sending away.” Our sin and guilt is *sent away* because of what Jesus did on the cross for us.
  - He has *forgiven* us . Redemption and forgiveness go together (*Eph\_1:7*). The word translated forgiveness means “to send away” or “to cancel a debt.” Christ has not only set us free and transferred us to a new kingdom, but He has canceled every debt so that we cannot be enslaved again. Satan cannot find anything in the files that will indict us!

## **SUMMARY:**

- ❖ The prayers in Paul's prison letters are certainly unique. He prays for others and not for himself. The requests in his prayers center on spiritual blessings, not on material or physical matters. It's is not wrong to pray about physical or material needs. But spiritual needs are vastly more important.
- ❖ How would you pray for a group of people you had never seen? All that Paul knew about the believers in Colossae is what Epaphras, told him. Paul knew of the false teaching that was threatening the church, so he centered his praying on that problem. In his prayer, Paul made three requests.
- ❖ He Prayed for Spiritual Intelligence (*Col\_1:9*)
- ❖ He Prayed for Practical Obedience (*Col\_1:10*)
- ❖ He Prayed for Moral Excellence (*Col\_1:11-12*)
- ❖ In all the areas of prayer, this prayer is praying for seemingly the impossible – all wisdom; walking worthy; fully pleasing; all might; all patience!
- ❖ Do we ever pray this way? Have you, have I, been praying this way lately?

## **PRAY TODAY FOR:**

Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and one VACANCY President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. Proposed Cabinet Members: Sec. of State – Rex Tillerson; Energy – Rick Perry; Interior – Ryan Zinke; Defense – James Mattis; Treasury – Steven Mnuchin; Attorney General – Jeff Sessions; HUD – Ben Carson; Commerce – Wilbur Ross; Health & Human Services – Tom Price; Education – Betsy DeVos; Trans. – Elaine Chou; U.N Ambassador – Nikki Haley; Labor – Andrew Puzder; Homeland Security – Gen. John Kelly; EPA – Scott Pruitt; Budget – Mick Mulvaney; SBA – Linda McMahon; Cabinet Level Officials: – Reince Priebus; Nat'l Security Advisor – Michael Flynn; Chief Strategist – Stephen Bannon; White House Council – Donald McGahn; Counselor to Pres. – Kellyanne Conway; Press Sec. Sean Spicer; Agriculture – Sonny Perdue; Vet. Affairs – Donald Shulkin; C.I.A. Director – Mike Pompeo ; Amb. to Israel – David Friedman; Nat Econ Council Dir. – Gary Cohn; Nat. Intell. – Dan Coats; US Trade Rep. – Robert Lighthizer; Sr. Adv. to Pres. – Jared Kushner; Homeland Sec. Adv. – Thomas Bossert; Spec. Adv. Reg. Reform – Carl Icahn; Dir. Trade Policy – Peter Navarro; Cyber Security – Rudy Giuliani Supr. Ct candidate: Raymond Gruender;

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