

THE PRAYERS OF PAUL

WEEK 1 HOMEWORK

For our first week of homework, you will be looking at Paul's prayers of thanksgiving. As you study this week, reference your own prayers and try to weigh if you are thankful to God or need to increase in thankfulness.

Before you get started, though, I challenged you at the end of Week 1 to praise God for one of the blessings of Ephesians 1:3-14 each day. Keep track of what you praise Him for and share with your table next week.

Observation – What does the text say?

1. Look up the definition of thanks in a dictionary and write it here.

2. Look up Strong's G2168. Write the definition here.

3. What thanks is given in the following verses:

PSALM 103:1-4

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

ISAIAH 12:4-5

1 CHRONICLES 16:34

HEBREWS 12:28

PSALM 95:1-5

PSALM 118:24

PSALM 107:1-3

4. What is Paul thankful for in the following verses:

Romans 1:8-10

1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Ephesians 1:15

Philippians 1:3

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

1 Thessalonians 2:13

2 Thessalonians 1:3

Interpretation – What does the text mean?

We can be confident that God will answer our prayers for his purposes because he has explicitly promised to bring his purposes to pass. What purposes of God are prayed for in these verses:

1. Matthew 6:9; John 17:5
2. Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:9; James 5:13–20
3. John 17:3, 24–26; Ephesians 1:15–22
4. James 1:5–6
5. Ephesians 3:14–21; Matthew 6:11, 13
6. Luke 10:2; Acts 4:2

Application – How should this change me?

1. Please work through the 2023 Year in Review document and prayerfully set some spiritual goals for 2024.
2. Are you praying according to God's purposes that you discovered above (Interpretation)? Which one do you struggle with most? How can you improve in that area?
3. Write out a pray of praise or thanksgiving related to a current issue in your life.