

THE PRAYERS OF PAUL

WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

This week we will be looking at Paul's prayer for the Colossian church in Colossians 1:3-14. As you study this week, examine your own prayers and determine how you might incorporate the prayers of Paul into your prayers.

Observation – What does the text say?

1. Who is the "we" that is giving thanks? (Hint – look at verse 1)
2. What prompts Paul's prayer for the Colossians in verse 4?
 - (1)
 - (2)
3. In Colossians 1:3 and 9, how does Paul say about he prays for them?
 - (1)
 - (2)
4. In Colossians 1:9-11 what 4 things does Paul ask on behalf of the Colossians?
 - (1)
 - (2)
 - (3)
 - (4)

Interpretation – What does the text mean?

1. Read Paul's prayer in Philippians 1:9-11. What does Paul pray for the Philippians in verse 9? In what 2 aspects does he want them to abound?
2. Look up knowledge (Strong's G1922). What does it say? Is this the same word used in Colossians 1:9?

3. In Colossians 1:9 Paul asks for the believers to be filled with the knowledge of His will.
 - a. Do you believe we can know God's will? Look up the following verses and see if you are correct: Acts 22:14; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 5:17; Colossians 1:9
 - b. Look up the following verses and record what they say the will of God is:
 - i. 1 Thessalonians 4:3
 - ii. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
 - iii. 1 Peter 2:15
 - c. Can you think of any other Scriptures that speak to what the will of God is?
4. In Colossians 1:10 Paul asks that believers may walk worthy of the Lord. Look up Strong's G15 and write what it means.
5. What does the Bible say about walking worthy – what does it look like? Look up the following verses:
 - (1) Ephesians 1:4
 - a.
 - b.
 - (2) Ephesians 2:10
 - a.
 - (3) Ephesians 4:1-3 (5 things!)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - (4) Colossians 1:10
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

Application – How should this change me?

1. In Colossians 1:11 Paul asks that the Colossians may be strengthened for all patience and longsuffering. The MacArthur Study Bible notes state that these two terms are closely related and refer to the attitude one has during trials. “Patience” looks more at enduring difficult circumstances while “longsuffering” looks at enduring difficult people.

- a. Patience

- i. Do you need to be patient in some difficult circumstance?
- ii. What is your attitude in that circumstance?
- iii. What are you praying for in that circumstance?
- iv. What would patience look like for you in that circumstance?

- b. Longsuffering

- i. Do you need longsuffering to endure with a difficult person or people?
- ii. What is your attitude with that person/people?
- iii. What are you praying for that person/people?
- iv. What would it look like for you to be longsuffering with that person/people?