



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

July 30 – Colossians 1:9-14

Section 1: Introduction

If you remember from the introduction to the book of Colossians, Paul wants the people of Colossae to know something important: that he was continually praying for them. This was a church that Paul wasn't personally familiar with, but that he knew through the word that had spread to him through Epaphras, one of Paul's fellow missionaries and church planters. It was important to Paul that the Colossians knew he was thanking God for them and their faith, and that he was praying for a growing faith amidst the trials they were facing. In the introductory lines of the letter, his prayer was focused on thanksgiving for what God had been doing among them.

In this week's passage, Paul gets specific about the things he was praying for the church to grow in. He starts by assuring them that he's constantly praying, and in a large way, frames up the whole letter as a written prayer for the church. As you read, notice the areas that Paul says are necessary for living a life pleasing to God and notice the source of those things: what is done in our own power and what is done by God on our behalf.

Read Colossians 1:9-14

Section 2: Walk slowly through your passage

- Verse 9: "Since the day we heard..." What is it that Paul had heard? Look back to verses 3 and 4. Why is it important to connect what Paul had heard about the Colossian church and what he was continuing to pray for? What does verse 9 tell us he was praying for? Who is doing the action of filling? What difference does that make in your own pursuit of growing spiritual wisdom and understanding?
- Verse 10: What is the goal of growing in spiritual wisdom and understanding?
- Verses 10-12: What are the specific ways these verses spell out how we live a life worthy of the Lord?
- Verse 11: Read Ephesians 3:16-18. While Paul is addressing a different church facing a different situation, how are these verses similar to verse Colossians 1:11? What additional insight does this provide to you about how and why we grow in wisdom and understanding?
- Verse 12: Why give thanks to the Father according to verse 12? How does growing spiritual wisdom allow you to see your inheritance in the kingdom of light? Who qualifies us to share in the inheritance?
- Verse 13: What did God do for us? How does that rescue and deliverance build on the reason for gratitude in verse 12?
- Verse 14: How has God delivered us? How is it that we are qualified to share in the inheritance of God's holy people?

Section 3: Reflection questions

- How does this passage inspire you to “live a life worthy of the Lord?” Look back over the past year. In what areas have you grown? What events, choices, or activities have sparked that growth? In what ways did God meet you in those pursuits to cause growth?
- Paul mentions in verse 10 that the believers should bear fruit in every good work and increase in the knowledge of God. How have you grown in your knowledge of God? How can you actively continue to seek growth in your knowledge of God and allow it to transform your actions and impact those around you?
- How does the idea of being strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, impact your perspective on overcoming challenges and facing adversity in your own life?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using Colossians 1:9-14, write out a prayer in response to what you’ve read OR use the prayer already constructed below to pray this passage.

[Sample prayer]

Heavenly Father, giver of all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Thank you for the redemption I have through the sacrifice of Jesus. Thank you for qualifying me to receive an inheritance of faith and holiness from you and for calling me into your kingdom. I know that on my own, I would not have qualified. Your love for me is what sent Jesus to live with us and die on a cross to redeem us and rescue us from the dominion of darkness.

God, please grow my desire for more of you. That you would fill me with the knowledge of your will, so that I could live a life worthy of you. I want to bear as much fruit as I can in your power. I want to grow in my knowledge of you, not just in knowledge about you. Please strengthen me so my endurance and patience would see me through any trial and that I would experience increasing faith, hope, and love. And please grow my gratitude. I am thankful for all you have done to put me where I am, with the gifts and the inheritance you’ve given, with the Spirit of Christ living in me. As you continue to fill me, may gratitude and love become the cry of my heart.

I pray this in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

Amen

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get Colossians 1:9-14 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out the passage: Write down Colossians 1:9-14 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. Memorize Colossians 1:12-14. Using various techniques to memorize the passage, such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Review and practice: Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.