

## Praying For A Change

February 16, 2022

Scripture: Colossians 1:1-12

**1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and  
Timotheus *our* brother,**

**2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse:  
Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.**

**3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying  
always for you,**

**4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love *which ye have* to  
all the saints,**

**5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in  
the word of the truth of the gospel;**

**6 Which is come unto you, as *it is* in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit,  
as *it doth* also in you, since the day ye heard *of it*, and knew the grace of God  
in truth:**

**7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a  
faithful minister of Christ;**

**8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.**

**9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for  
you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all  
wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

**10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in  
every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

**11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;**

**12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:**

**Summary: Paul had a deep love for the Colossians as well as all the churches he had begun. You could say he loved them as a father loves his own children. As a matter of fact Paul often call himself a father to those he led to the Lord. As a spiritual father he prayed for his spiritual children.**

**It's equally important that parents pray for their children and that we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ. But how do we pray for them?**

**What do we ask for?**

**Paul gives us a good example of how to pray for those we love.**

**It's easy to tell someone you'll be praying for someone, but Paul was specific, telling them how he prayed and what he asked for.**

**I. That They Would Know God's Will – Vs.9 "Filled with the knowledge of His will"**

**He could have prayed that they would not be persecuted, that they would have good health, or that they would prosper, or that they would gain political power, but he prayed that they would know God's will.**

**What good is it to live in perfect health without Christ?**

**What good is it to have possessions and loose our own soul?**

**What good is it to have political power if we do not know the will of God?**

**The knowledge of God's will is more important than any of these because, with the knowledge of God's will you are filled with the knowledge of world conditions, the knowledge of how to succeed in life, the knowledge of true power, which only comes from God.**

**What is there in this world that is more important for our children than to know the will of God?**

**What could we give them that will stand for time and eternity?**

**We all have hopes and dreams for our kids, we may want them to follow in our footsteps, I would like to see each of my kids become successful and financially independent, but more than anything else, whatever they do I just want it to be according to God's will.**

## **II. That They Would Know How To Walk**

**Boot camp... you may look like civilians now, but by the time you leave here you will walk, talk, eat, sleep, shoot and shine like American soldiers. The way we acted was a reflection on the U.S. Army.**

**A. In the same way the way Christians act is a reflection on God –**

**Vs.10. As we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ we gain spiritual understanding & spiritual understanding teaches us how to walk.**

**We gain spiritual understanding through:**

- 1. Prayer**
- 2. Bible study**
- 3. Worship**
- 4. Faithfully assembling with other believers.**

**B. But how do we walk worthy of the Lord?**

**We walk in the Spirit –**

**Galatians 5:16, “This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”**

**We walk in love –**

**Ephesians 5:2, “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.”**

**We walk as children of light –**

**Ephesians 5:8, “For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:” ... “fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”**

**C. When we walk worthy of the Lord others notice and we become fruitful in His work.**

**D. I want our members to glorify God in their lives. It doesn't matter to me what our members do in their lives so long as they glorify God. And they will if they walk worthy of the Lord. That ought to be a parent's prayer every single day for their children.**

**III. That They Would Know God Well – Vs.10 “Increasing in the knowledge of God”**

**A. I am glad that the members of the church are learning about God in Sunday School, Wednesday evening, and at home, but what is truly important is not that they know about God, but that they know God.**

**B. I want them to all have a home in heaven. So we ought to be praying that they know God... and as they grow physically that they will also grow spiritually closer to God every day.**

**C. This is what Paul was seeking for himself – Philippians 3:4-14... This should be our goal for ourselves and for our children as well.**

**Conclusion: We get together as a family every Sunday and have devotions and pray, sing songs of Zion, and listen to the preach word that we may know God better.**