

## Lesson 5 - A Prayer in the Right Direction

### I. Colossians 1:9-14 - A Prayer for You

- A. One of the things this text does is share a prayer for new Christians. This prayer provides a model for the things you as a new Christian should strive for in your walk with God. This prayer also serves as an introduction to many of the topics in Colossians.
- B. Words and concepts:
  - 1. **Spiritual** - When something is spiritual, it does not necessarily mean that it is non-physical. It means that something is in tune with God and his purposes. For instance, a song about prosperity may not be spiritual, but if it is a thanksgiving to God for giving the ability to help others in a financial way, then the song is intensely spiritual.
  - 2. **Wisdom** - Wisdom is a combination of sound knowledge, understanding, discernment, and the skill to put it to practice in a way that honors God. According to the Biblical perspective, wisdom comes ultimately from knowing God. (Prov 1:7; 9:10; James 1:5)
  - 3. **Saints** - A saint is a "holy one." To make someone holy is to "sanctify" a person. To be holy or sanctified simply means to be set apart or dedicated. Every Christian has been sanctified, or dedicated/devoted to God and no longer lives for himself, but for God. (1 Cor 1:30; 1 Cor 6:11)
  - 4. **Kingdom** - The Kingdom of God refers to the "Rule" or "Reign" of God in the hearts of men, not to a worldly system with an earthly king. Jesus said that his kingdom was not of this realm and that it is within us (John 18:36; Luke 17:21).
  - 5. **Redemption** - To redeem something is to buy something back. Jesus purchased us from our bondage to sin through his death on the cross (1 Pet 1:18-19).

### II. Reflection Questions part 1: What does this prayer remind us that God did?

- A. Makes us able to Live the Christian Life:

v.11 - Strengthened with all \_\_\_\_\_ according to \_\_\_\_\_ glorious might

## B. Saved Us:

1. v.12 - ...qualified us to share in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints of light
2. v.13 - Rescued us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_
3. v.14 ...in whom we have \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins

## C. Set us Marching to a Different Beat:

v.14 - Transferred us to the \_\_\_\_\_ of his beloved Son



D. Reflection: The image of being in a "kingdom" may seem foreign to our experience, so spend a few moments reflecting on the implication this word and image has for your relationship to the Lord and to each other. How does this characterize the type of relationship you are to have with the Lord? With each other?

**III. Reflection Questions part 2: What does this prayer say we are to strive for?**

A. v.9 - That we be **filled** with the \_\_\_\_\_ of his \_\_\_\_\_ in all spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- What are some ways you can be filled with the knowledge of God's will with wisdom? (See also: Prov 2:2-7; 2 Tim 3:15-17; 2 Tim 1:5)

B. v.10 - That we would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ Him in \_\_\_\_\_,

1. List some of the activities, jobs, etc. that you do in a typical day

2. How does knowing you are a "saint" change the way you see these?

3. Evaluate and Prioritize: In what way do any of these activities need to be transformed, changed, dropped, etc. in order to make it pleasing to God?

C. v.10a - ... bearing fruit in every \_\_\_\_\_

1. Identify some good works do you now see in your life as a result of your conversion to Christ:
  
  
  
2. What should be the motivation for these works and any others you might do?

D. v.10b ...and \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

1. Notice, this prayer does not indicate that we should merely increase in the knowledge "about" God, but in the knowledge "of" God. In other words, we need to grow in knowing God, which means developing a deepening and personal relationship with God. As someone can read about you and know really know you personally, so one can know about God yet not really know God.

2. What are some ways you can grow to know God more deeply?

3. Examine these passages and summarize in a phrase what they say:

- a. John 15:10, 14 \_\_\_\_\_
- b. 1 John 2:3-4; 3:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Mk 12:28-31; 1 John 4:7-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. According to these passages, what is necessary in order to know God? \_\_\_\_\_

E. v.11b ...for the attaining of all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

1. Note some synonyms for "steadfast" and see if you can list any others: persistent, unstopping, ... \_\_\_\_\_
2. Note some of the antonyms for "steadfast" and see if you can list any others: lazy, sporadic, ... \_\_\_\_\_
3. List some of the things you need to be steadfast in as a new Christian:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. \_\_\_\_\_
4. 1 Pet 2:2 - "Like newborn babes, long for the pure \_\_\_\_\_ of the word so that you may grow in respect to salvation."

Q: How often does a baby need nourishment?

*Note: The imagery used in this passage is of human growth and development that is aided by proper nutrition. This study is designed to help you with lifelong habits for spiritual nutrition that will enable you to continually grow and be steadfast. Therefore, it is very important that you get in the habit of doing the devotional exercises associated with these lessons in order to develop these life long habits.*

F. v.12 a ...joyously giving \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father

*Note: Since part of our purpose is to worship God, there will be sections in these lessons devoted to what worship is and how God desires us to worship him.*

1. What are some things you can give thanks to God for today?
2. Write a personal commitment here to the practice of giving specific thanksgivings to God on a daily basis:

| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Monday</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tuesday</b>  |
|--|--|
| 1. Read Colossians 1:9-14 slowly<br><br>2. Spend some time in prayer. Write down any reflections or thoughts between you and God here: | 1. Read 2 Pet 3:8-14 slowly<br><br>2. Reflect: How does the message of this passage affect how you view your life? |
|  | 3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God  |
| 3. Complete any part of the previous lesson that is incomplete.  |  |

| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Wednesday</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thursday</b>  |
|--|---|
| 1. Read 2 Pet 3:17-18                        | 1. Read Col 1:15-17                       |
| 2. Reflect: What sorts of precautions do you | 2. What do you learn about Christ in this |
| need to take as a Christian?                 |   |
| 3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God      | 3. Prayer                                 |

| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday         |
|--|---|
| 1. Read Col 1:15-18                                  | 1. Read Col 1:15-20                       |
| 2. What additional things do you learn about Christ? | 2. Who is Jesus and what is his purpose?  |
| 3. Prayer  | 3. Prayer                                 |
| 4. Read over and begin the next lesson               | 4. Read over and complete the next lesson |