



## Sermon, Sunday October 3, 2021 “Paul’s Prayer for the Colossians Church”

**SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:9-14** <sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled<sup>1</sup> you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### Introduction: Colossians

Colossae was an ancient city of Phrygia in Asia Minor and one of the most celebrated cities of southern Anatolia (modern Turkey). Colossae is located on the site of the church of Laodicea, one of the seven churches of Revelation. Also, Colossae is located about 99 miles (160 km) from Ephesus.

The reason why the Apostle Paul wrote the book of Colossians was that the faith of the members was being challenged by heretical ideas that had entered the church, and there were difficulties in the leadership of the church.

Today's text is the Apostle Paul's prayer for the Colossians. Paul prayed not only for those who were weak in faith, but also for those who were doing well.

Apostle Paul's prayer shows that living a good life of faith means keeping the Lord's grace we have received well and bearing fruit. I hope that our spiritual life will become more abundant by imitating the prayer of the apostle Paul. Let's look at the contents of the prayer through today's text.

### Body: The Apostle Paul's Prayer

Let's look at Colossians 1:9. **“For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,”**

The Apostle Paul said that the essence and purpose of prayer is to know the will of the Lord. **So he prays that the Colossian church will know the will of the Lord.** We must learn to listen to the Lord's will, rather than to have the Lord hear our prayers through prayer.

Knowledge of the Lord's will is different from worldly knowledge. The will of the Lord is so broad and deep that it cannot be known by man, but only when the Lord reveals it to us (Ephesians 1:9). Also, the revelation that the Lord gives us is gradual. Therefore, in order to live according to the will of the Lord, we must draw close to the Lord through the Word of the Bible and continuous prayer. That is why the Apostle Paul prays, **“You may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,”**

Also, Psalm 119:98-100 says: **“Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me. I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts.”**

Therefore, believers should meditate on the words of the Bible and do their best to follow and keep the word of the Lord. Because of this, our lives should be filled with the word of the Lord and enabled to live



according to the wisdom given by the Holy Spirit. That is why the first thing the Apostle Paul prayed for the church in Colossae was that he might know what the will of the Lord was. We should be able to know well what the will of the Lord is for us through prayer, too. May the overflowing grace of the Holy Spirit be with us in our daily life of prayer. So, what is Paul's second prayer for the Colossian church?

**Second, Paul prays that the Colossian church will live a life that is worthy of the name of 'saints'.**

**Colossians 1:10 says: "So that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God."**

Those who realize the will of the Lord must live the life that the Lord wants us to live. Right faith is doing in our lives what we know. **So, Colossians 2:6 says: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him,"**

Then how should we act and live? First, we must practice love for our neighbors. It is pleasing to the Lord when we do good things to our neighbors. In addition, we must achieve the maturity of faith in our daily lives. Growing faith means that we should be able to find joy in using our time and money for our neighbors, not just being content with the help of others or wanting to be looked after. And when hardship comes to us, we must also have the strength to endure it well. The Lord loves and protects those who persevere for the sake of the Gospel.

Therefore, believers must continue to do good, keep getting to know the Lord, and be able to persevere in suffering. Then, what is Paul's final prayer for the Colossian church?

**Third, Paul prayed to the Lord to give thanks overflow to the church in Colossae.**

**Today's text, Colossians 1:12, says: "giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light."**

We should be thankful because Christ forgave all our sins on the cross. Through Jesus, we become children of the Lord and citizens of the kingdom of heaven. Also, we become a saint, a holy people, not sinners. Before we became Christians, we were followers of the world in darkness. (Ephesians 2:2) We were also children of wrath by nature, living according to our selfish desires. (Ephesians 2:2-3) Our salvation comes through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. No man can be saved by works, but only through the atonement wrought by Christ.

German theologian Karl Barth wrote in a letter shortly before his death: "I was a person with nothing to complain about. But if I have anything to grieve for, it is what I myself did not do today, yesterday, the day before yesterday, but I am not truly grateful to the Lord."

We must not commit the folly of missing out on sincere thanksgiving to the Lord.

**Conclusion: Our life toward the Lord, who is the head of the church**

Now let's summarize today's sermon. The Apostle Paul prays earnestly for the Colossians when he hears that the Colossians are living a life bearing abundant fruit by keeping the grace they have received from the Lord.

Paul's prayer clearly shows us what the church is, a spiritual community with Jesus Christ as its head. Therefore, we should try to imitate the prayer of the Apostle Paul.

We must always pray without ceasing to know the Lord's will, live a life worthy of the name of a saint for our neighbors and church community living together, and never lose our gratitude for the grace that the Lord has given us. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

