

Colossians 1:9-14 Paul Prays for the Colossians

1

Introduction

We are looking at the importance of prayer. Believers should be praying for each other. Not just when one is facing difficulty, but also when they are growing and maturing in the faith.

To be effective in prayer, we need to be **God-centered** and to see the world and situations from His perspective. We also need to be **people-centered** and be concerned for their spiritual needs and wellbeing of others.

2

The Petition

Colossians 1:9

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

We studied how Paul prayed that the Colossians **may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.**

Paul wants believers to have the knowledge of God's will.

Wisdom is to know God's truth and be able to see people and situations from God's perspective. **Understanding** is to be able to apply the knowledge of God's truth to the people and situations of daily life.

3

The Petition

We looked at the **five purposes that are fulfilled in spiritual knowledge.**

1. A Worth Walk
2. A Fruitful Life
3. Spiritual Growth
4. Spiritual Strength
5. Endurance

Now Paul turns to praising God for what He is doing in the lives of the Colossians.

4

Giving Praise

We should be most thankful for the work of Christ. Paul gives thanks for the **results** of the work of Christ in our salvation. Paul sums up the doctrine of salvation in three great truths: **inheritance**, **deliverance**, and **transference**. They are both a description of salvation and a cause for thanksgiving.

5

Colossians 1:9-14

For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

6

Deliverance

Colossians 1:13a

He has delivered us from the power of darkness.

The second cause for praise and thanksgiving is our spiritual deliverance. The word “**Delivered**” means “**to draw to oneself,**” or “**to rescue.**” God drew us out of Satan’s kingdom to Himself. That event was the new birth. We are not gradually, progressively delivered from Satan’s power. **When we placed our faith in Christ, we were instantly delivered.** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). Believers do not need deliverance from the dominion of sin and Satan; **they need to act as those who have been delivered** (cf. Rom. 6:2).

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Deliverance

Colossians 1:13a

He has delivered us from the power of darkness.

Those who receive Jesus as Savior have been rescued from **the domain of darkness.** “**Domain**” could be translated “power,” “jurisdiction,” or “authority.” Our Lord used the phrase **domain of darkness** to refer to the supernatural forces of Satan marshalled against Him at His arrest (Luke 22:53). The triumph of the domain of darkness was short-lived, however. A few hours later, Jesus shattered Satan’s power forever by His death on the cross. You need not fear that power, for “greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4). Through His death, Jesus crushed Satan and we were delivered from his dark kingdom.

8

Transference

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul's third point of praise has to do with the Colossians transference. The word translated "**conveyed**", means to remove or change. It is used in Acts 13:22 to speak of God's removing Saul from being king. It was used in the ancient world to speak of the displacement of a conquered people to another land. The verb speaks here of our total removal from Satan's domain of darkness to the glorious kingdom of Christ.

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Transference

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

We have been conveyed into the Jesus' Kingdom. **Kingdom** refers to more than the future millennial kingdom, when Jesus will reign on earth for a thousand years. It is also more than the general rule of God over His creation. **The kingdom is a spiritual reality right now!** Paul gives us a definition of it in Romans 14:17: "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

10

Transference

Colossians 1:13-14

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The **kingdom is the special relationship men in this age have with God through Jesus Christ**. A kingdom in its most basic sense is a group of people ruled by a king. Christians have acknowledged Christ as their King and are subjects in His kingdom. They have been **conveyed ... to the kingdom of the Son of His love**. The Father gives the kingdom to the Son He loves, then to everyone who loves the Son (Luke 12:32).

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Colossians 1:13-14

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Although Christ has not returned to physically rule on earth, He is no less a king. In response to Pilate's question, "Are You the King of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "It is as you say" (Matt. 27:11). He reigns in eternity, rules now over His church, and one day will return to rule the earth as the King of kings.

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Transference

Colossians 1:13-14

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We as members of Christ's kingdom and represent Him in this world. Therefore, we need to walk worthy (vs. 10). However, before we can be fit subjects for Christ's kingdom we needed **redemption, the forgiveness of sins**. The word "**redemption**" is one of the New Testament words expressing the work of Christ on our behalf. Alongside such terms as *sacrifice, offering, propitiation, ransom, justification, adoption, and reconciliation*, it attempts to describe the riches of our salvation.

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Redemption means "to deliver by payment of a ransom," and was used to speak of freeing slaves from bondage. The root of the Greek word is expressed in our English word **emancipation**. The Septuagint uses a related word to speak of Israel's deliverance from bondage in Egypt.

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Redemption results in **the forgiveness of sins**. The word **“forgiveness”** refers to pardon, or remission of penalty.

The root of the word means “to send”. Because Christ redeemed us, God has sent away our sins; they will never be found again. “As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Ps. 103:12).

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Transference

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Jesus’ death on the cross (**through His blood**) on our behalf paid was the **price of our redemption**. Jesus paid a debt that He did not owe, because we had a debt we could not pay. Jesus’ death paid the debt of our sins, and God forgave those sins and granted us an inheritance with Him. **He delivered us from the power of darkness and made us subjects of Christ’s kingdom. Those wonderful truths should cause us to give thanks to God continually.**

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So What ...

We have stated that we need to be praying for each other, and the Holy Spirit has recorded this prayer from Paul as an example for us. We have looked at each part in detail but now we come to the So What.... Is this just to increase our knowledge or is it given to help transform our individual prayer lives? How do you pray for others?

I am not into ritual prayers as they can be memorized and repeated without thought or emotion but let me pray Paul's prayer for you and I encourage you to pray it for me and each other.

17

Father I pray for these, that they may filled with the knowledge of Your will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding so they may walk worthy of You, fully pleasing you, being fruitful in every good work. I pray that they may increase in their knowledge of You. May You strengthen them with your glorious might so that they may be patient and longsuffering with JOY in every situation they face.

I thank You that You have made them fit to be partakers of the inheritance that You have reserved for the saints who dwell in the light of Your presence. I am thankful that You have delivered them from the power and bondage of darkness and placed them into the kingdom of Your Son whom You love. I thank You that they have been redeemed not on their own merit, but through the sacrifice of Jesus who shed His blood so their sins might be forgiven!

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