

PRAYER – 14
SEPTEMBER 7, 2016

COL. 1:3

INTRODUCTION: As we continue our study on prayer, I want us to look at Paul's prayer for the Colossians. This church was under attack on many fronts and Paul prayed for things that truly mattered.

THREE THINGS PAUL HEARD – COL. 1:4-5

1. Their faith in Jesus.
2. Their love for one another.
3. Their hope of Heaven. **1 JOHN 3:1-3**

FOUR REQUESTS

1. Spiritual wisdom and understanding. **COL.1:9**
 - A. Paul knew people were destroyed for lack of knowledge.
 - B. Not just concerning jobs, schools, or marriage partners, but for insight into the will, ways and purposes of God.
 - C. God wants us to set aside our will and ways to follow His.
2. To live worthy, pleasing, fruitful lives. **COL. 1:10**
 - A. God wants us to acquaint ourselves with His ways and purposes so we can live lives that please Him. This wisdom is to lead to a changed life and lifestyle.
3. For spiritual strength. **COL. 1:11**
 - A. "Might" is dunamis, or miracle power. Power that manifests in patience, endurance and joy.
 - B. Paul knew the race was long distance and not a sprint. He knew they would need supernatural power to stay the course, perform their duties, resist temptations and bear up under persecution and trials.

C. Patience is not a 21st Century strong point.

4. For thankful hearts. **COL. 1:12a**

A. Being thankful is God's will. **1 THES. 5:18**

B. Being a complainer doesn't set well with God.
NUM. 14:26-28

C. When things coming against us are out of our control, we are to thank God for power to endure. **JAMES 1:2-4, 12**

FOUR FACTS TO REMEMBER

1. Our inheritance. **COL. 1:12b**

A. "Meet" means to qualify or make fit.

B. Our fitness was made possible by Jesus, not ourselves.

C. Jesus qualified us to experience every kingdom blessing.

2. Our deliverance from darkness. **COL. 1:13a**

A. Satan's kingdom is fueled by intimidation, fear and deception.

B. We are not to be intimidated by our enemy. **PHIL. 1:27-28**

3. Our transfer. **COL. 1:13B**

A. Our transfer is the motivation behind our lifestyle.

B. **JOHN 5:24** – We've passed from death to life.

C. **JOHN 8:12** – Life lights our path and walk with God.

4. Our redemption. **COL. 1:14**

A. Because we are redeemed and forgiven we have a legal right to the full blessings of the gospel.

B. We can and should expect every request to become an experienced reality because of our standing with God.

CONCLUSION: Paul prayed for what the people needed most – spiritual wisdom and understanding in the knowledge of Christ, and spiritual strength, patience and endurance. He knew these things were needed for them to finish their course with joy.