

PAUL'S PRAYERS

JULY 2, 2025

INTRO: COL. 1:9-14

It was dangerous to become a Jesus follower in the ancient world. The cities had their own false gods and goddesses that the people believed kept their city safe. Every city had two kinds of inhabitants—the seen and the unseen. By keeping the unseen happy, you were protected, if not, bad things would happen – floods, earthquakes, famines, or disease pandemics. Their priests would identify what the problem was. So, when Christians stopped observing their worship rituals, they were to blame for any bad event that occurred. The people would chant “Christians to the lions”. So, Paul writes this epistle to encourage and enlighten the people of this new, but endangered church, to help them get established in the faith.

Paul's Prayer

He begins identifying himself as an apostle of Jesus by the will of God, meaning he was qualified to write this letter of instruction, even though he never met them.

- **V 9** – To be filled with the knowledge of God's will. Paul knew the importance of them understanding God's will, guided by spiritual wisdom and understanding. It wasn't enough to know the facts of God's will, but to have the wisdom and understanding needed to apply it.
- **V 10** – This verse emphasizes the believer's walk. It's to be a walk worthy of the Lord. It includes: faith that pleases God; being faithful in good works – preach, teach, comfort, give, help, forgive, be compassionate, encourage, exhort....; increasing our understanding of the knowledge of God.
- **V 11** – It takes Gods' strength and power to enable us to meet life's challenges, and overcome adversity with patience, perseverance, and joyfulness.

- **V 12** – We are to live lives of thanksgiving and gratitude. The Father qualified us to partake of our inheritance. It's not something we worked for or earned like a wage.
- **V 13** – He rescued us from spiritual captivity. It was a one-time finished work event that occurred at conversion. He transferred, translated, or conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. We are now under His authority and rule.
- **V 14** – Redemption means to release by a legal ransom—the Blood of Jesus. Forgiveness (aphesis) means “to release from bondage; remission of the penalty”.

Conclusion:

Paul's prayer for the church at Colosse focuses on spiritual growth, wisdom, understanding, divine empowerment, and living with gratitude and thanksgiving. It points out how believers have been delivered and translated out of Satan's kingdom into God's kingdom of love.