

Core Commitments – Praying for your Church

Colossians 1:9 (HCSB) ...we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...

Text: Colossians 1:9-12

South Orlando Baptist Church

Topics: Thankfulness, Will of God

January 3, 2015

Supplemental Text: See below:

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As you pray for your church...

1) Ask for _____ of God's will (vs. 9-10)

A. v. 9—The word filled is also a key word in Colossae in particular because it was one of the catch phrases used by those who were telling the Christians there that they needed Jesus plus something else. They were saying that the church was lacking something; was incomplete in their spiritual life and knowledge and experience. So, Paul responds by using the idea of being full and being complete in Christ. The word carries the idea of being fully equipped. It was used to describe a ship that was ready for a voyage. The believer has in Christ all that he or she needs for the voyage of life.

B. Look at what happens when you are in God's Will:

Verse 10 -

- 1) You walk in a manner _____ of God
- 2) You _____ him in all respects
- 3) You bear _____
- 4) You increase in the _____ of God
- 5) You become strengthened with _____ (verse 11)
- 6) You receive endurance and patience
- 7) You receive _____
- 8) You become _____

2) Appeal for the strength to do God's Will (vs. 11)

A. The strength to do the will of God cannot come from us, but from the Holy Spirit who indwells us (1 Peter 4:11...if anyone serves, it should be from the strength God provides, so that God may be glorified through Jesus Christ in everything...)

3) Acquire a thankful heart that is rooted in your salvation (vs. 12)

A. Thankfulness is commanded to be a part of our prayers throughout the New Testament (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 4:6.)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message.

1. What was Paul's primary prayer for these Christians? (1:9)
2. What results did Paul want for the Colossians? (1:10)
3. How could the church at Colosse have spiritual strength? (1:11-12)
4. How does God enable believers to share in His inheritance? (1:12-14)
5. How are the results of faith, love, and hope evident in your life?
6. How is the gospel bearing fruit in your church?
7. What can we learn about praying for others from Paul's prayers for the Colossians?
8. What is one way you can improve your prayer this week?
9. What missionaries can you pray for on a regular basis over the next month?
10. To whom can you write an encouraging letter sometime during the next week?