

Paul's Prayer For the Colossians

Col. 1:9-12

Introduction:

- A. Paul prayed for others (v. 9; 2 Thess. 1:11)
- B. Paul asked others to pray for him (2 Thess. 3:1)
- C. Christians need to pray for each others physical and spiritual welfare (3 John 2)
- D. Paul prayed for Colossians' spiritual progress in three areas:

Discussion:

I. He Prayed For Their *Knowledge* (vs. 9,10)

- A. Knowledge coupled with wisdom and understanding.
 - 1. Knowledge through hearing and studying.
 - 2. Wisdom and spiritual understanding through experience of application.
- B. Knowledge of "his will" is priceless. (Phil. 3:8; Hos. 6:6; 2 Pet. 2:20; Rom. 10:1-4).
- C. Knowledge needs increasing. (2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11; Heb. 5:12-14)
- D. Knowledge of little value without works. (Jas 1:25)

II. He Prayed For Their *Works* (v. 10; cf. 1 Cor. 15:58).

- A. Works good only if please God. (v. 10; cf. Gal. 1:10).
- B. Works good only if lawful. (Matt. 7:21-24).
- C. Works good only if done by authorized persons at authorized places.
 - 1. Public preaching is a good work - but not for women.
 - 2. Hand or foot washing a good work - not as worship. (Matt. 15:9; 1 Tim. 5:10).
 - 3. Social meals are good works - not for the church. (1 Cor. 11:22,34).
 - 4. Vengeance is a good work - but not for Christian. (Rom. 12:19; 13:4).

III. He Prayed For Their *Attitudes*. (v. 11)

- A. "Patience" — Not easily discouraged.
- B. "Longsuffering" — God is perfect example. (1 Pet. 3:20, 21; 2 Pet. 3:9-10).
- C. "Joy" — (cf. Phil. 4:4,11-13; Psa. 51:12).
 - 1. Christians have reason for joy. (Acts 8:39; 16:34; Heb. 13:14).
 - 2. Joy is not proof of salvation, but a fruit of it (Acts 7:41; Gal. 5:22)

Conclusion:

- A. Let us pray for these things for self and brethren.
- B. Let us work for these things as we pray for them. (cf. Mt. 6:11; 2 Thess. 3:10).
- C. Let us pray for your salvation (Rom. 10:1); but you must obey.