

A Prayer for Spiritual Strength

Colossians 1:9-12

Introduction:

- A. Church may be hindered for lack of prayer. (Jas. 4:2,3)
- B. Church prospered in first century - they prayed for each other.
 - 1. Apostles prayed for brethren. (Col. 1:9; 2 Thess. 1:11)
 - 2. Apostles wanted to be prayed for. (2 Thess. 3:1)
- C. Church would be stronger if we imitated Paul's prayer for Colossians:
He prayer for them to be stronger in three areas:

Discussion:

I. Stronger In Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding That We Have. (v. 9,10).

- A. Need wisdom enough to understand value of spiritual knowledge.
(Phil. 3:8; Hos. 6:6; 2 Pet. 2:20; Rom. 10:1-4)
- B. Need wisdom enough to understand source of spiritual knowledge.
(Col. 2:1-4; 2 Tim. 3:7)
- C. Need wisdom enough to understand abuse of knowledge. (1 Cor 8:1 ff.)

II. Stronger In Walk and Work That We Do.

- A. So as to be worthy of the Lord. (vs. 10)
- B. So as to please God, not man. (v. 10, cf. Gal. 1:10)
- C. So as to be fruitful in every good work. (v. 10)
 - 1. To be fruitful good works must abound. (cf. 1 Cor. 15:58; 2 Pet. 1:8).
 - 2. To be fruitful good works must be lawful. (Matt. 7:21ff; 2 Tim. 3:16,17)
 - 3. To be fruitful good works must be done lawfully.
 - a. Preaching good - not for women.
 - b. Foot & hand washing good - not as worship. (1 Cor 15:9; 1 Tm. 5)
 - c. Social activities good - not for church. (1 Cor. 11:22,34).
 - d. Vengeance is good - not for Christian. (Rom. 12:9; 13:4).

III. Stronger In Attitude and Disposition. (v. 11)

- A. In Patience - Not easily discouraged.
- B. In Longsuffering - God perfect example. (Rom. 2:4-11; 2 Pet. 3:9ff)
- C. In Joyfulness (cf. Phil. 4:4,11-13; Psa. 51:12)
 - 1. Christians have real reason for joy. (Acts 8:29; 16:34; Heb. 13:14)
 - 2. Joy does not prove salvation - but is fruit of it. (2 Thess. 2:11,12)

Conclusion:

- 1. Let us pray that we and our brethren be stronger in these areas.
- 2. Let us pray, let us work for these things. (cf. Mt. 6:11; 2 Thess. 3:10)
- 3. Let us pray for the salvation of others. (Rom. 10:1); but one must obey!