

SERIES: BE COMPLETE
(A study in Colossians)
LESSON 2 - A PRISONERS PRAYER (1:9-12)

INTRODUCTION:

Paul's prayers were unique prayers - He prays for others and not himself. His prayers center on "spiritual" blessings, not on material and physical matters. It's not wrong to pray about physical and material things but spiritual needs are more important. In his prayer he made three requests.

I. HE PRAYED FOR SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE (Col. 1:9)

A. False teachers promised the Colossian believers that they would be "in the know" if they accepted new doctrines.

1. Words like knowledge, wisdom and spiritual understanding were part of their religious vocabulary.

a. Satan is DECEPTIVE.

B. These believers needed to grow

1. Being born again gives you the ability to grow.

a. The theme of Colossians is that you are complete in Him. (Colossians 2:10)

No other "experience" is needed.

2. We need to have a knowledge of His will (vs.9)

a. Knowing the will of God is important. (Acts 22:14)

b. We are friends. He wants us to know what He is doing and why He is doing it. (John 15:13-15)

3. We are to be "FILLED" with the Spirit (v.9)

a. Filled full...fully controlled by the Spirit.

Spiritual Intelligence is necessary for success!

II. HE PRAYED FOR PRACTICAL OBEDIENCE (1:10)

A. Knowledge and obedience go together.

1. Not just head knowledge (see 1:28; 2:3; 3:16; 4:5)

a. Some people get intoxicated by studying the "deeper life" (truths).

Detours practical living.

B. If we are growing in knowledge we should also be growing in grace. (2 Peter 3:18)

1. Two words summarize the practicality of the Christian life: "walk" and "work".

a. God must make the Worker before he can do work.

III. HE PRAYED FOR MORAL EXCELLENCE (Col. 1:11-12)

**A. Some teachers and preachers claim to have God's wisdom,
Yet, they lack love and kindness.**

**1. Knowledge, conduct, service, and character must always
go together.**

-We must strive for this balance.

**-Spiritual growth and maturity can come only as we
Yield to God's power and permit Him to work in us.**

B. POWER COMES FROM GOD (v.11)

1. What is the power for?

**a. Usually think of God's power is revealed in great
feats of power.**

2. The emphasis here is on CHRISTIAN CHARACTER :

Patience, Longsuffering, Joyfulness and Thanksgiving.

a. Patience - Enduring bad circumstances.

b. Long-suffering – Has to do with people.

**c. Joyfulness – A deep seated sense of well-being and
contentment that comes from a relationship with
God.**

**d. Thankfulness (v.12) - opposite of selfishness; for
salvation (12b)**

**PAUL PRAYED FOR SPIRITUAL INTELLIGENCE, PRACTICAL
OBEDIENCE AND
MORAL EXCELLENCE. HAVE YOU BEEN PRAYING THIS WAY?**