

The Book of Colossians

Lesson 2

Study Notes

Prayer For the Colossians

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Text: Colossians 1:1-8.

Introduction: In this lesson we want to take a more in-depth look at the Scripture and learn of Paul's reasoning for his prayer for the church at Colosse. Paul refers to his apostleship because he is _____ to the Colossians. By declaring himself an Apostle, he would refer to his _____ to deliver God's message and give him the authority to combat the error that was exposing itself to the church. Even today vital effective service is the Christian's recognition of God's call upon each individual life.

Paul's life and work were ordered by the will of God, thus doing the will of God is by divine appointment. His appointment was not from the other Apostles, religious leaders, his family, nor by himself, his authority came from God alone. Paul recognized the involvement of _____ providence in his life.

Some food for thought:

1. To be active in the will of God is the only way to have the _____ of God's blessings.
2. To be active in the will of God is the only way to have complete _____ of heart and mind.
3. To be active in the will of God is the only way to be successful in the _____ of God.

We as believers must understand that our lives are meaningless without God's involvement. All servants of Christ must recognize God's will for their lives and then commence doing it with _____.

I. Paul's Description of the Colossians.

A. He addresses them as saints.

The word for "saints" is the Greek word *hagios* (*hag'-ee-os*) it means "_____" born again believers, not some special group of miracle workers. A "saint" in the New Testament is not some person who has been canonized by the Roman Catholic Church, immortalized in a stained-glass window, and whose relics are worshipped and supposed to perform miracles. Saints also means "separated ones"; separated to God, separated by God, and separated from the world. With the meaning of saints as "holy ones" does not mean we are rendered holy by our own merit, but because as believers, we are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and made recipients of the imputed righteousness of Christ.

1. Believers are saints in position by the justification of _____.
2. Believers are called to be saints practically through sanctification of the _____.

B. He addresses them as faithful.

The word "faithful" is the Greek word *pistos* (*pis-tos'*) meaning trustful and _____.

C. He addresses them as brethren.

Colossians 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

D. He addresses them as being in Christ.

It can be said that every Christian has two addresses and lives in two places at the same time. We each have an _____ address, and a _____ address "in Christ". They were "in Christ" meaning they were in union with Him, wrapped up in Him to enjoy all of the riches and resources of the Godhead which are His.

E. He addresses them with grace and peace.

Grace is God's unmerited favor. Grace gives us what we do not deserve; mercy withholds from us that we do deserve. Grace always precedes peace. The source of grace and peace come from God our Father; God is not the _____ of all men. He is the Father of all them that believe, of those who are born into His family by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. The Father bestows His own grace and peace upon His own.

Grace is "God exerting His _____ influence" upon the believer. God gives grace for both _____ (for by grace are ye saved) and _____ (my grace is sufficient for thee). Grace is continually given throughout the believer's life to be the under girding strength which empowers the believer to accomplish the tasks introduced by God's providence. It is a true saying where God leads, He always provides.

II. Paul's Dedicated Prayer of Thanksgiving.

Colossians 1:3-6.

A. The thought of his prayer was to be thankful to God the Father.

Paul thanked God for His people. All too often, we gossip about them, ignore them, or slight them. Paul prayed for them. Paul prayed to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; our prayers can be addressed equally to the _____ and the _____, another way of affirming the Deity of Christ. God alone has the necessary attributes of omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence to respond to the millions of prayers offered in countless tongues on a daily basis.

B. The thoroughness of his prayer for them.

Paul's words that he was praying always for them would have been of great encouragement to them. What a great source of comfort to know that someone continually prays for us.

C. The truth of their faith in Christ Jesus.

The important thing about the believer's faith is that it is "faith in Christ Jesus." The amount of faith to begin with is unimportant, consider faith as a grain of mustard seed can move mountains. What is important is the _____ of our faith. Faith will grow as we find out that the object of our faith is sound. The Colossians believer's faith was Christ-centered, they rested in Christ, and they were anchored in Him.

D. The treasure of their love for all the saints.

Note: love for "all" saints, not just the ones we like.

Love is a _____ of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

Love is evidence of _____.

John 13:34-35 *A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*

1John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*

E. The truth of their hope.

Colossian 1:5 *For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;*

Christian hope is solid and substantial because it is embedded in eternal _____. Our hope is treasured up in heaven. Hope looks ahead. Our hope is guaranteed by God Himself in His infallible Word.

1Peter 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

The hope we have has come to us through the word of the truth of the gospel, and is offered to all the world.

Colossians 1:5-6 *For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:*

F. The treasure of their fruit bearing.

The tense of bringeth forth fruit is bearing fruit and keeps on bearing fruit. The gospel is dynamic in that it produces _____. It is foolish to look for fruit before there is life.

G. The truth of their love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:8 *Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.*

The love of the Spirit is a very delightful phrase. It bears witness to the personality of the Holy Spirit, for love cannot be attributed to an influence. It also shows the confidence with which we may commit ourselves to His gracious indwelling and prompting. He is the Holy Spirit, but we need not shrink from Him as an awful guest. It also reminds us how deeply He may be grieved. There is no grief so poignant as that which is suffered by love. (F. B. Meyer)