

## A prayer for Christian Growth – Colossians 1:9-14

1. What sorts of things do you usually find yourself praying for others, or what do you generally ask others to pray for you?
  - *Often we pray for, or ask prayer for what we need, or for physical health and even for people's conversion, which are all great things*
  - *Sometimes we might pray to know God's will in a certain area of our life. In Paul's prayer in Colossians 1 we see a great example of how to do this.*
  
2. Read Colossians 1:9. What example does this offer us of how we can pray for others?
  - *pray often for others*
  - *ask God to fill our brothers and sister in Christ with the knowledge of his will*
  - *That God will give them spiritual understanding of what this is.*
  - *This sort of prayer is focused on God's glory and to do him honour in our lives. This is what we want for our life and for our fellow Christian's lives*
  
3. What are some of the different ways people can interpret being 'filled with the knowledge of God's will'?
  - *People may think it is getting a particular message from God. Perhaps he is telling us to do or become a certain something.*
  - *For others it might be a personal thing, where they have a special closeness to God or feeling of God. Perhaps even an 'extra revelation' that is not in the Bible*
  
4. Read Colossians 1:10-11. What do these verses teach us about doing God's will (look also at Proverbs 1:7; Psalm 111:10; Romans 12:1-2)
  - *This passage reminds us that knowing God's will is a corporate thing. We can pray it for all believers, and how people respond to God's will is ultimately the same, that is living a worthy life.*
  - *This passage reminds us that knowing God's will is doing God's will. It is living a life worthy of being a child of God. Seeking to please God in our lives, with our words and our actions, bearing good fruit.*
  - *It is something we do with God's strength, as he strengthens us with endurance and patience*
  - *These other passages also tell us that knowing God's will involves us responding to him as God and changing the way we live in response to what God teaches us about himself*
  
5. What does it mean to live a life worthy of the Lord? Why should we live like this, and pray this for others?
  - *It means obeying him, living in the light of his kingdom, not in the way we used to before we were converted.*
  - *We should live like this because this is our new identity, God has saved us so that we might be his people living under his rule.*
  - *We should pray it for others because we want all God's people everywhere to honour him with their lives*
  
6. In verses 12-14 the Colossian believers have a new qualification. What is that new qualification, and how does God achieve it?
  - *God has qualified them and us for eternal life along with all other believers in him. Giving us a share in his kingdom*
  - *God rescues us, or redeems us from the power of sin and the devil. He does this on the cross through Jesus dying in our place, paying our ransom. We have forgiveness of sin in Jesus.*
  
7. Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-14 shows us his desire for Christians to grow to maturity in Christ. Is this your desire for your brothers and sisters? How would having this desire change your prayer life?

Spend time talking and praying about what God has taught you.