

“We Have Not Ceased to Pray”

Sermon Notes

➤ **Paul tutors us by his example (9a):**

Intercede for your newborn brothers & sisters in Christ

What will we ask for? Spiritual sight (9b)

What result do we expect? They walk in the light (10a)

What manner of walk brings delight to the Lord?

A pilgrim who

(1) Produces fruit (10b)

(2) Knows God (10b)

(3) Perseveres (11)

(4) Gives thanks (12)

Community Group Study Questions

For the Week of Sept. 26th – Oct. 2nd

Introduction: For reflection

When you started following Jesus, do you recall anyone praying for you? What sort of things did they ask God for?

Looking back, when you first started walking with Jesus, what do you wish someone would have prayed for you, as a spiritual newborn?

Context

Paul begins his prayer in Col 1:9 with “For this reason” or “And so”. Briefly consider what Paul writes before his prayer in Col 1:9-12. Read Col 1:3-8. What is Paul saying there?

In Col 1:1-12, what do we learn about Paul and Timothy? What do we learn about the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae?

What words and idea/themes carry over from 1:3-8 into 1:9-12?

Observation

What did Paul pray for? In turn, what result did he expect? In turn, how does that end result come about?

What does Paul expect to come out of knowledge of God’s will? Why is it not enough to merely pray for knowledge of God’s will?

(For further study: Look at Exodus 31:3 and 35:31 (35:30-35) as well as 1 Kings 7:14. Do you see any connection of words between these OT passages and words in Paul’s prayer? What might Paul be alluding to about new testament saints?)

Meaning

How would you summarize Paul’s prayer of petition in one main sentence or idea?

What do we learn about God - Father, Son and Spirit - from this prayer? How is the triune God involved in this prayer?

What else do we learn about walking with God in Colossians? See Col 1:21-23; 2:6-7; 3:1-17; 3:18-4:1, 4:2-6.

What is the value for a new believer to know God’s will? To walk in the light for Jesus’ pleasure? To bear fruit, know God, be strengthened to persevere, and be joyfully thankful?

Application

How might you change your approach to God in prayer, given Paul’s example?

Think of our local church and our desire to see people born into the family of God - how would you apply this prayer to those who don't yet know Jesus?

Think of a new believer in Christ. Pray, as Paul does, for him or her.

If you're not a babe in Christ, how might this prayer still be meaningful for your own life?