

THE QUEENS MINISTRY

BIBLE BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

That You May Know Him!

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That You May Know Him.

A lesson on the prayer requests of Paul found in Colossians first chapter.

Introduction:

While the Apostle Paul was in prison in the city of Rome, awaiting his upcoming trial before Caesar, one of the letters he wrote was to the believers in the city of Colossae. Paul had not met this faith community – he did not start this church, but he knew who they were, and they knew him and respected his leadership and oversight.

Central to this relationship was the fellow worker and minister of the Gospel, Epaphras. Paul had worked with Epaphras while they both were in the city of Ephesus. Epaphras was from Colossae and may have started the ministry there; Paul had sent him to preach the good news of Jesus to the citizens of Colossae and two other cities, Laodicea and Hierapolis, nearby. Paul later learned about the church communities in these cities when Epaphras was arrested and brought to Rome as a prisoner.

In our previous study on the letters of the Apostle Paul we see that Paul wrote this letter to:

- To defend against heretical teachings or teachers**

- To encourage and exhort the believers**

The church at Colossae was made up of mostly Gentiles, converts to the faith, and Paul was using this letter to guide and correct the false teachings trying to rise up in the church, as well as to commend the believers for their steadfast **faith, love and hope**.

One item in particular that Paul wanted to combat, was the misconception by some in the church that said that it took special knowledge to be accepted by GOD – Paul disputes this in his letter and tells the church that it's **“not what we know that brings salvation but whom we know – that knowing Christ is knowing GOD.”**

The other item, that this lesson will focus on, is Paul's encouragement to the believers', his love for them, even though he had not yet met them personally, and his commendation of their Christian behavior. In this lesson we will look at the prayer Paul shares with the church found in chapter 1, the sharing of his heart for their growth and maturation.

“We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God’s people...” Col. 1:3-4 (NIV)

What did Paul pray for the church at Colossae? Can these prayer requests be applied to us now? Yes! I believe that they can be a source of encouragement and inspiration in our faith walk as we seek also to know Him, Jesus our Savior.

Colossians Chapter 1: (NLT)

Greetings from Paul

1 This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. **2** We are writing to God’s holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace.

Paul’s Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. **4** For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God’s people, **5** which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

6 This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

7 You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ’s faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.^[b] **8** He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

9 So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. **10** Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

11 We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy,^[c] **12** always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. **13** For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, **14** who purchased our freedom^[d] and forgave our sins.

Part 2

Let’s take a look at what Paul was praying for the believers.

- 1) Paul starts off by saying that he always gives thanks for their:
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2) He tells them that what God had reserved in heaven for them had given them:

3) He points out that the truth of the Good News that they had heard, was doing for others what had also happened to them, which was:

4) Who was their teacher, the proclaimer of the Gospel that helped convert them?

5) List the traits that Paul wanted God to shower on the believers:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

f) _____

6) What did Paul hope and pray would be the evidence of having this knowledge of God?

7) What did Paul pray would be produced in their lives?

8) What kind of fruit might Paul be talking about here?

9) What is the benefit of getting to know God more and more, or better and better?

10) What has God enabled believers to share in?

11) What is that inheritance?

12) Paul tells the readers that those that partake of this blessing are those who?

13) Paul tells us that God has rescued us from:

14) What kingdom do we belong to?

15) What did Paul say Jesus our Savior did for us?

16) What three items is Paul encouraged to see found in this group of believers?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Part 3

"For though I am far away from you, my heart is with you. And I rejoice that you are living as you should and that your faith in Christ is strong." Col. 2:5

In our study of this lesson, we see that Paul is ever so thankful for the lives of the believers at Colossae. Though he had to rebuke and correct some in his writings, as well as encourage them to walk in the truth that they first heard and believed, he is joyful for the lives that they exhibit in Christ thus far.

Let's look at a few things he shares with them to keep faithfully serving the Lord.

1: "I want you to know how much I have agonized for you and for the church at Laodicea, and for many other believers who have never met me personally. I want them to be encouraged and

_____ by strong ties of _____.

I want them to have complete _____ that they understand

God's mysterious plan, which is _____.

In him lie hidden all the _____ of wisdom and knowledge." Col. 2:7

2: "Let your _____ grow down into him, and let your lives be _____ on him. Then your _____ will grow strong in the _____ you were taught, and you will _____ with thankfulness." Col. 2:7

3: "Let the _____ about Christ, in all its richness, _____." Col. 3:16

Paul's prayer for this church and perhaps for others, all those that he ministered to was because of his great love for God, experienced through the Lord Jesus, and his fellow brothers and sisters – why did he say that he labored so for the kingdom?

Read Col. 1:28

What have you gained from this lesson, that you will be willing to share with someone?

What is one item you can begin to do today that will help you to know God better and better?

Thank you for joining in this lesson study – My prayer for you is that this lesson will encourage you to want to know God more and more. That you may know Him, in the power of His love.