

**Part 4 – The Book of Colossians**

**Colossians 1:4-9**

**The Apostle Paul's Prayer**

**Hebrews 3:1-2** Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest of our confession; 2 He was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses also was in all His house.

**Genesis 1:27** God created man in His own image, **in the image of God He created him;** male and female He created them.

**Genesis 1:28** God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and **subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.**"

**Colossians 1:4** since **we** heard of your **faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;**

**James 2:14-20** **14** What use is it, my brethren, if someone **says he has faith but he has no works**? Can that faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that? 17 **Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself.**

18 But someone may well say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, **and I will show you my faith by my works.**"

19 You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, **that faith without works is useless?**

***2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

**Colossians 1:5** **because of the hope laid up for you in heaven**, of which **you** previously heard in **the word of truth, the gospel**

**Colossians 1:6** which has come to **you**, just as **in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing**, even as it has been doing in **you** also since the day **you** heard of it **and understood the grace of God in truth**;

BDAG says:

*"the world"- ""planet earth as a place of inhabitation, the world" (BDAG, 5.a:561).*

The definition quoted from BDAG is an example of overreach. The term means here, as many places in NTGreek, places on earth that include both Jews and Gentiles."

*"Bearing fruit"- "to cause the inner life to be productive, bear fruit" (BDAG)*

*'Grace" - "practical application of goodwill, (a sign of) favor, gracious deed/gift, benefaction"*

*"In truth" - lit: "according to the standard of truth."*

**Titus 2:11-15**, that is your homework. You need to look up and read this section to understand the "grace of God in truth" and what it means, read it

slowly.

**Colossians 1:7 just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,**

“Fellow bond servant:” a subordinate in total obedience to a ruler, slave . . . of a relationship to the heavenly KURIOS” Lord.

The noun defines Epaphras as a co-servant with Paul and Timothy, serving the same master. Technically, the genitive serves as a genitive of explanation: ‘from Epaphras [who is] our beloved co-slave.’”.

“Faithful” - ““pertaining to being worthy of belief or trust, trustworthy, faithful, dependable, inspiring trust/faith”

The adjective’s position in Greek suggests that Paul is emphasizing the faithfulness of Epaphras.

**The 6 key Apostolic points in Philippians 1 are;**

1. the DEFENCE and CONFIRMATION of the gospel. V:7
2. the GREATER PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL. V:12

3. The CAUSE of Christ. v:13

4. TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD. V:14

5. PREACHING Christ. V:15

6. CHRIST BEING PROCLAIMED. V:18

**Colossians 1:8** and he also informed **us** of your love in the Spirit.

“Your love” -the pronoun “your” in Greek is bracketed between by the article “the” and “love”. This word order strongly emphasizes the possessive pronoun (your). It is as if Paul placed the pronoun in all capital letters: “YOUR love.” The pronoun refers to the brethren) (v. 2a).

“In the spirit” -“Spirit” (small ‘s’) = “a part of human personality, spirit . . . as the source and seat of insight, feeling, and will, gener[ally] as representative part of human inner life” (BDAG)

The prepositional phrase, “in the spirit”, communicates that Epaphras communicated the gospel via a spirit of love.

**9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**

“**For this reason**” refers to the cause and points backwards to what has gone before, it is referring to **1:4-8**, i.e., the encouraging news that Epaphras brought back to Paul in his jail cell about the “holy ones” in Colossae, their active, objective faith and love for one another.

“We have not ceased” The focus shifts to Paul’s and Timothy’s continuing to pray actively for the holy ones at Colossae. The “we” here again are Paul and Timothy (v. 1).

“Since the day...” = “from the very day we had heard” I.e. the report about the “holy ones” in the assembly, that is what they had heard.

“To ask for, with a claim on receipt of an answer, ask, ask for, demand (without any real distinction betw[een] act[ive] and mid[dle]”

“Knowledge” = “knowledge, recognition” (BDAG).

The compound verb expresses a knowledge that targets a particular person(s) or object(s) in the genitive (here, with “of His will” I.e. what one wishes to happen, objective sense, what is willed . . . predom[inantly] of God”

“Wisdom” - “the capacity to understand and function accordingly, wisdom . . . wisdom that God imparts to those who are close to God”

“Spiritual” - “In the great majority of cases in ref[erence] to the divine spirit, having to do with the (divine) spirit, caused by or filled with the (divine) spirit, pert[aining]/corresponding to the (divine) spirit . . . as a rule it is used of impersonal things” .

The word order strongly suggests that the adjective (“spiritual”) modifies the nouns, (wisdom) and (understanding), as manner.

The motivating factor for their prayers for this great Assembly in Colossae, were:

- Their faith in Christ Jesus
- Their love towards all the saints
- Which was motivated by the hope laid up for them in heaven.
- Also, their active objective love in the Spirit.
- Paul & Timothy prayed for them all to grow in knowledge of God’s will and therefore they would grow in spiritual wisdom and understanding.
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**Read: Ephesians 1:17-19 a similar prayer there.**

***Ephesians 1:17-19** 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 I pray that the eyes*

*of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might.*