

The Example of Paul's Prayer
Colossians 1:3-14

I. We must follow the example of Paul's Praise/Thanksgiving. (Col. 1:3-8)

A. We must follow Paul's example in the Person Addressed in Praise: "God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ". (3a)

B. We must follow Paul's example in the Pattern Adopted in Praise: "We give thanks" (3)

1. We must praise God Persistently—"always"
2. We must praise God Personally—"for you"
3. We must praise God Prayerfully—"praying"
4. We must praise God Promptly—"since we heard"

C. We must follow Paul's example in the Purpose Announced for Praise: (1:4-5a)

1. We must praise God for believers' Salvation Faith in Christ.

a.) Theirs is a personal faith.

b.) The Person of their faith was Jesus Christ.

2.) We must praise God for believers' Sacrificing Love for all the saints. (4b,8)

(When) a.) Sustaining i.e. continual—"you have" (4b)

(Who) b.) Not Selective i.e. comprehensive—"unto all" (4b)

(Who) c.) Saints i.e. Christians—"the Saints" (4b)

(How) d.) in Spirit i.e. Comforter—"in (the) Spirit (8) fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22)

3.) We must praise God for the believer's Secure Hope. (5-7)

1.) Held in the heavens—"laid up for you in heaven" (5a)

2.) Heard in the message of the Word of truth—"which you previously heard in the word of truth of the gospel" (5b)

a.) lit. Coming to you as also in all the world (6a)

b.) lit. it is bearing fruit and growing as also in you (6b)

c.) lit. from the day on which you heard and fully knew the grace of God in truth (6c)

3.) Heralded from the messenger of the Word of truth--Epaphras(7)

a.) Teacher/Disciple maker—"just as you learned it from Epaphras"

b.) lit. the beloved fellow-slave of us.

c.) lit. who is a faithful on your behalf minister of Christ

d.) "and he informed us of your love in the Spirit".

II. We must follow the example of Paul's Petition (1:9-14)

A. We must follow the Pattern of Paul's Petitions. (9a)

1. Purposeful—"for this reason also" (vss. 4-8)
2. Not procrastinating—"since the day we heard"
3. Persisting—"we have not ceased"
4. Praying—"to pray"
5. Personalizing—"for you"
6. Petitioning—"to ask" (a superior)

B. We must follow the prayer of Paul's Petitions: "that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will" (9b)

1. This knowledge will be in all spiritual wisdom.
2. This knowledge will be in all spiritual understanding.

C. We must follow the purpose of Paul's Petitions: so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (10-14)

1. Pleasing Him—"to please (Him) in all respects" (10b)
2. Producing for Him—"bearing fruit in every good work" (10c)
3. Prospering in Him—"increasing in the knowledge of God" (10d)
4. Empowered by Him—"strengthened with all power according to His glorious might" (11)
 - a. "For the attaining of all steadfastness"
 - b. "(For the attaining of all) patience"
5. Praising Him—"joyously giving thanks to the Father" (12-14)
 - a. For the inheritance given us—"Who qualified us to share in the inheritance of the Saints in light" (12b)
 - b. For our deliverance—"For He delivered us out of the domain of darkness" (13a)
 - c. For our transference—"transferred us to the kingdom of His Beloved Son" (13b)
 - d. For our redemption—"in Whom we have redemption" (14a)
 - e. For our forgiveness of sins—"the forgiveness of sins" (14b)