

VILLAGE

CHURCH

Bible Study Notes

Intro Question: Are you currently praying for a fellow follower of Jesus?

Pray: For our knowledge of God to flow from our heads into our hearts and increasingly transform our lives.

Read: Colossians 1:9-14

Questions about the passage:

- Why does Paul start with a so / therefore in v9 when beginning his prayer? How does v1-8 connect to 9-14?
- Paul asked that God would 'fill' the Colossians 'with the knowledge of his will' (v9). How does this kind of knowledge differ from just intellectual understanding?
- How could the Colossians have spiritual strength? See 1:11-12
- How does God allow Christians to share in His inheritance? See 1:12-14

Questions for us:

- Paul prayed for the Colossians' strength, recognising God as the only appropriate source of power. Where do we typically look for strength instead of God, and what are the consequences?
- Paul prays for endurance and patience instead of comfort or escape. How could that change the way you pray for yourself and others in difficulty?
- Is your knowledge of God growing in a way that is changing how you live, or is it remaining largely intellectual? How could it become more transformational?

Pray: that Village would continue to grow into full Christian maturity

Homework: Make it a regular habit to pray for a fellow follower of Jesus

Remind: Life Series starting next week.

Praying to see 10% of the northern suburbs in gospel-centred churches & 250 by 2030 at Village Church who grow, gather, give & go, in love & joy to the glory of God

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Paul's letter to the Christians of Colosse in Asia Minor is one of his shortest letters. Paul is writing to a young church that's just starting to figure out what it means to believe in Jesus and follow him. He urges them to dig into the riches of the gospel and let it shape the way they live. This week, we look at the second half of Paul's introductory prayer for the Christians at Colosse.

Questions about the passage:

Why does Paul start with a so / therefore in v9 when beginning his prayer? Refer to v1-8.

The connection to the opening thanksgiving is an intentional link. It is precisely because of what God has already done that Paul can pray with such confidence for what God will yet do. Having begun a work of grace, God will continue it and bring it to completion.

Paul asked that God would 'fill' the Colossians 'with the knowledge of his will' (v9). How does this kind of knowledge differ from just intellectual understanding?

The knowledge Paul prays for is not just intellectual but a Spirit-given, experiential understanding of God and his will. Knowledge that transforms, rather than just informs, to be obedient to God. Paul's goal is that the Colossians lives would be transformed for the daily work of sanctification, bearing fruit, and walking in holiness.

How could the Colossians have spiritual strength? See 1:11-12.

Paul prays for the Colossians to be strengthened by God's power. The same power that raised Christ from the dead. This demonstrates they're not alone in their new identity. They now belong to God, transferred to His Kingdom and are reinforced by His power.

How does God allow Christians to share in His inheritance? See 1:12-14.

God has allowed Christians to receive His inheritance through Jesus' redemptive work alone, not through their own effort or spiritual achievement. Paul reframes the inheritance as the full redemption and forgiveness believers now possess in Jesus, having been transferred from the domain of darkness into his kingdom.

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Questions for us:

Paul prayed for the Colossians' strength, recognising God as the only appropriate source of power. Where do we typically look for strength instead of God, and what are the consequences?

Reflect on a recent experience where you turned to God, and another experience where you did not in a time of difficulty. Notice the outcomes of each experience.

Paul prays for endurance and patience instead of comfort or escape. How could that change the way you pray for yourself and others in difficulty?

Reflect on our natural response to difficulties compared to Paul's response. How can we reshape our thinking?

Is your knowledge of God growing in a way that is changing how you live, or is it remaining largely intellectual? How could it become more transformational?

Let this be an honest and non-condemning exercise. Celebrate with God the work he's done in you so far. Ask for guidance on what to surrender further to God and call on his strength.