

Message Notes

Transformational Prayer

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

The Days we find ourselves in...

Introduction - "You're in my prayers"

Today's Message:

Transformational Prayer - Colossians 1:9-14

The passage logically

In Colossians 1:9-14 ~ Paul is:

Praying and Asking God to fill them with knowledge of his will

SO THAT, they walk with Jesus and please him

Bearing Fruit

Growing in Knowledge

Strengthened with Power for

Endurance and Patience

Giving Joyful Thanks to the Father

Who has qualified them

And Rescued them from the

domain of darkness

And Transferred them into the

kingdom of his Son

In whom they have redemption,
which is, the forgiveness of sins

The Big Ask - "Fill them with God-filled knowledge of God's Will (Colossians 1:9)

Paul's prayers for others:

Philippians 1:9, Philemon 6, Ephesians 1:17

The result ~ walking with Jesus and pleasing him (Colossians 1:10a)

The Walking NOT Dead (Colossians 1:10b-12a)

1. Bearing Fruit

2. Growing in Knowledge

3. Strengthened with Power

For Endurance

For Patience

4. Giving Thanks

Four Foundations of Joyful Thanksgiving (Colossians 1:10b-12a)

1. Qualified

2. Rescued

3. Transferred

4. Redemption

Gospel Application - "Do you pray for people to be utterly transformed by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ?"

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Philippians 1:9

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight.

Philemon 6

I pray that you may be active in sharing your faith, so that you will have a full understanding of every good thing we have in Christ.

Ephesians 1:17

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

1 Timothy 2:1-6

¹I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people — ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

REDEMPTION
OF THE CITY

A GOSPEL IN
COMMUNITY
SEMINAR

RSVP ON
THE CITY

Racial Justice

FEB. 23, 2017
7-9PM

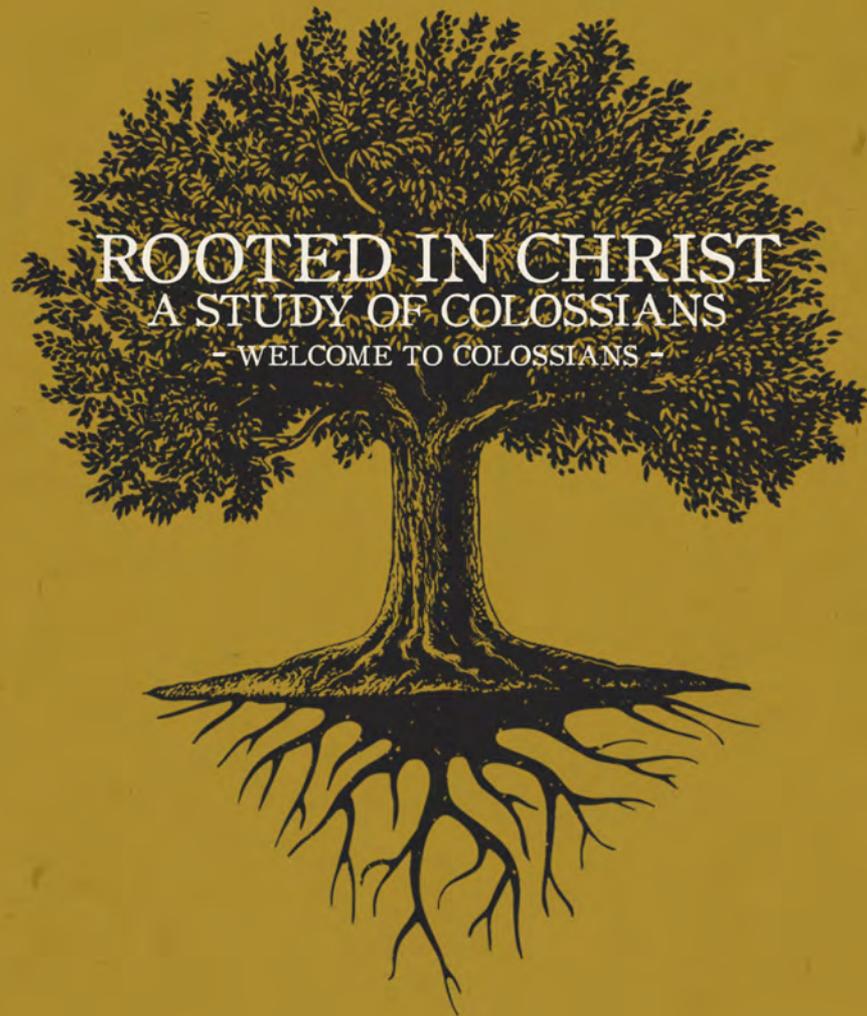


**I am
with
you.**

**I am
listening
to you.**

**I care
about
you.**

**I am
praying
for you.**



ROOTED IN CHRIST

A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

- WELCOME TO COLOSSIANS -

Welcome to Colossians

Colossians 1:1-2

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and Timothy our brother,

²To God's holy people in Colossae,
the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father

Thankfulness of Paul

Colossians 1:3-8

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people — ⁵the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel ⁶that has come to you.

Thankfulness of Paul

Colossians 1:3-8

In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world – just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. ⁷You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, ⁸and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:9-14

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Colossians 1:9-14

¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,
¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

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Colossians 1:9-14

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Transformational Prayer

The Big Ask – “Fill them with God-filled knowledge”

Colossians 1:9

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This knowledge for which Paul prayed was set in bold contrast with that of the Gnostics because Paul used a word for knowledge which “is almost a technical term for the decisive knowledge of God which is involved in conversion to the Christian faith.” The Gnostics’ characteristic word for knowledge was *gnosis*. But Paul used the word *epignosis* as a reference to full knowledge for the Colossians. Knowing that they have this personal knowledge of Christ and his will, Paul prayed for an *epignosis* which would fill them in such a way that it would instill a wisdom and understanding which was singularly “spiritual” (the word *spiritual* is emphatic in the Greek).

From the apostle's perspective, a deep, growing knowledge of Christ and his will is of the greatest importance to the spiritual life of all Christians... Here in Paul's Colossian prayer, when he said, "we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will," he was using language of great intensity, for he knew that spiritual knowledge is foundational to a sound, fruitful Christian life. God puts no premium on ignorance... Spiritual knowledge comes, as we all know, through the work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8-11). He reveals Jesus Christ and gives us the special saving knowledge of him (John 17:3). But the Holy Spirit does not work alone. The Scriptures become the primary source of "knowledge" for the believer as they are studied in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This produces a *Christian mind*, which in fact is what Paul is praying for – a mind, as Harry Blamires says, which is trained to handle life within a framework constructed of Christian presuppositions. It is this mind, this *epignosis*, which God blesses... Every believer should be reading and meditating on God's Word. The very blood they bleed ought, in Spurgeon's words, to be "bibline." Every Christian should be concentrating when he or she hears the preaching of God's Word. Every believer should be able to filter his culture's seductive *gnosis* through the grid of God's *epignosis*.

~ R. Kent Hughes, *Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ*, Preaching the Word
(Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989), 22–23.

Biblical and Theological Thinking

Many people will see "Biblical Thinking" and immediately bring to mind something of a Bible Answer Man. This is far from what we're trying to create in LDI.

For LDI, biblical thinking means very little to us if it isn't incarnated (i.e. personified) into the life and ministry of the intern. Theology isn't to be learned so that we can find someone else who is ignorant of such things and tell them what they don't know. Just as important as what we might know is how we share this with others (ministry skill) and the manner in which we do it (Christ-like character).

As John Calvin aptly noted, "With how much better reason shall we detest flimsy sophists who are contended to let the Gospel play upon their lips, when, from its efficacy, it ought to penetrate the inmost affections of the heart, fix its seat in the soul, and pervade the whole man a hundred times more than the frigid discourses of philosophers?" Biblical learning is for the worship of God, love of neighbor, and personal growth in godliness.

Additionally, our class structure is a blend of lecture and discussion. LDI desires to see interns process through difficult topics and passages together around the table.

We believe that church-based training is without rival in the growth of a leader. No other environment like the church has a 360-degree view of the leader's life *nearly* 24/7. The good, bad, and ugly of each intern finds its way back to the LDI staff. Growth is possible for the intern because all is happening in the environment of the local church, our great cloud of witnesses.

Christ-like Character

Let's be honest. It's easier to discuss and measure one's knowledge of the Bible and skill in ministry. It's much harder to take the time to discuss and measure one's character.

Christian leaders with a lack of integrity are all too common. I'm sure as you read that sentence names came to mind of those who have "fallen." And for every Christian leader that falls there is a wake of hurt, disappointment, anger, and confusion. Nothing wounds deeper than the duplicity of a leader.

I heard it said once that if you don't have spiritual (i.e. Christ-likeness) as a spiritual leader, you got nothing. People need our holiness. They need to see in their leaders that "this works." They want to see our claim that the gospel is powerful has proven powerful in our lives. "For my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and power that your faith might rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" (1 Cor. 2:4-5). Do we have spiritual in our leadership?

It may be hard to discuss and measure. But, any time spent discussing such matters will not be in vain but surely bear fruit worthy of leadership.

Ministry Skill

As was stated earlier, we want LDI interns to find their unique S.H.A.P.E. We want them to respond to what they learn about God's creative DNA in them so that they can more effectively serve. Joy and peace accompany those who recognize themselves to be a certain part within the body.

And though we rely on our interns to carry out quite a bit of ministry, nothing is dependent on them. So, they can move freely from one ministry to another as they seek to find their niche within the body. Some training environments don't allow interns this flexibility. We feel it is critical.

For those pursuing full-time vocational ministry, they will be required to undergo a self-assessment, to be reviewed by a mentor, and then presented to the LDI staff. At this point, an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP) will be created to meet that intern where they're at. Goals within the three pillars will be established. Mentorship, reading, course work, and integrative exercises will be mapped out. All of this is to provide the intern with the best possible opportunity to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (Col. 1:10).

Transformational Prayer

The Result – Walking with and Pleasing Jesus

Colossians 1:10a

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,
¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

THE
WALKING DEAD

THE
WALKING DEAD

NOT

Transformational Prayer

The Result – Walking with and Pleasing Jesus

1. Bearing Fruit

Colossians 1:10b

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,
¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Worship



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Jeffrey P. Sorvik

August 28th, 1944 - February 4th, 2018

Transformational Prayer

The Result – Walking with and Pleasing Jesus

2. Growing in Knowledge

Colossians 1:10c

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,
¹⁰so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

Transformational Prayer

The Result – Walking with and Pleasing Jesus

3. Strengthened with Power

Colossians 1:11

¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Transformational Prayer

The Result – Walking with and Pleasing Jesus

4. Giving Joyful Thanks

Colossians 1:12a

¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,
¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.



In Christianity, it has been well said, theology is grace, and ethics is gratitude. If God's action and attitude toward his people have been characterized by grace, their response to him, in life and conduct as well as in thought and word, should be characterized by gratitude. Nothing less is fitting, considering how he has qualified them to share the inheritance of his holy people.

~ F. F. Bruce, *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1984), 49.

Transformational Prayer

Four Foundations of Joyful Thanksgiving

1. Qualified

Colossians 1:12b

¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,
¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The phrase “the share of the inheritance” (lit. trans.) was originally identified with the land apportioned to each tribe after the conquest. After the Exile some Jews used this inheritance language to refer to a divine bequest beyond history and connected it to the resurrection life to come. Nearly all Jews regarded the inheritance as exclusively Israel’s; and, like most heirs, they did not want to share with strangers and enemies (1:21) what they believed rightfully belonged to them alone. Gentiles have no natural right to the inheritance, but through Christ they have been made full legal heirs (see 3:24; Rom. 8:16–17; Gal. 3:29; 4:1–7).

~ David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 66–67.



LAST WILL
AND
TESTAMENT

Transformational Prayer

Four Foundations of Joyful Thanksgiving

2. Rescued

Colossians 1:13a

¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,
¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul characterizes the life of Gentiles before becoming Christians as an ethical and theological darkness (Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:4–5; see also 1 Peter 2:9; 1 John 1:5–7). Immorality, anger, strife, vengeance, violence, and oppression thrive in such murk. The Gentiles were in bondage to the prince of darkness (the pretender to light, 2 Cor. 11:14) and his evil dominion (see Eph. 6:12). C. S. Lewis’s description of the fictional land of Narnia, where it was always winter and never Christmas, expresses the same idea with different imagery. All humans need deliverance from a wasted life of sin and from the cosmic powers that keep them captive in sin... In Christ, God tears believers away from this dark power and moves them into the light.

~ David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 67.



Transformational Prayer

Four Foundations of Joyful Thanksgiving

3. Transferred

Colossians 1:13b

¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,
¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Like victorious kings who uproot whole populations and resettle them in other lands, God has wrested believers from the tyrannical rule of darkness and “brought [them] into the kingdom of the Son he loves” (lit., “the Son of his love”). Changing lordships means changing kingdoms. The image pictures a reverse exile. God’s domain is filled with light, and its charter is love. Because God loves his Son, all those who belong to him also are objects of divine love. The following verses affirm that Christ reigns over all malevolent powers in the universe, and Paul affirms in Romans that no force in heaven or earth, physical or supernatural, can separate his followers from God’s love (Rom. 8:34–39). Since these powers cannot obstruct our relationship with God, Christians need not fear them and must not pay them homage.

~ David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 67.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HELP

ME



Transformational Prayer

Four Foundations of Joyful Thanksgiving

4. Redemption

Colossians 1:14

¹¹being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,
¹²and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul caps off the mention of the beloved Son with the benefits he has bestowed on us, namely, “redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Christ has removed the barrier of sin. N.T. Wright helps us see that the forgiveness of sins “is not merely good news for troubled consciences.” Jeremiah (31:31–34) and Ezekiel (36:16–36) speak of it as “one of the specific blessings of the new covenant.” The blessings of our final redemption have already broken into the present. Forgiveness of sins is not simply a liberation from the past; it sets us free for the present and future. It opens the possibility of living a life worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:10). Paul says that the Colossians used to give their lives to sin, which brings only God’s wrath (3:5–7), but now they give their lives to Christ, which brings joy and light (2:6).

~ David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 67–68.

A dark, textured metal plate, possibly brass or steel, is mounted on a similar textured background. The plate is rectangular and shows signs of wear, including scratches and scuffs. The word "redemption" is written across the center of the plate in a white, serif font. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the metal and the contrast of the white text.

redemption

Gospel Application

Gospel Application

Do you pray for people to be utterly transformed by the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ?