

## Colossians Part 2

Colossians 1:1-18 select passages set 2 (1:3, 1:9)

Tuesday Night Bible Study, January 10, 2012

### PASSAGE / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you**, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. 9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, **do not cease to pray for you**, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

### PRAYER

**"praying always for you..." (1:3) "do not cease to pray for you..." (1:9)**

**--the simplest concept to grasp in the realm of prayer is intimate relationship...**

--Jesus didn't just pray to the Father to transfer information to Him, but rather Jesus often prayed to the Father because He wanted to talk to Him whom He loved, and while in a human body Jesus spoke to the Father through the channel of prayer.

--Luke 5:16: "He Himself often withdrew into the wilderness and prayed."

--saying that we don't need to pray to God because He already knows our prayers before we ask is comparable to a husband and wife telling each other, "I don't need to say that I love you anymore because I already told you that I love you the day we were married."

--God loves us and wants us to talk to Him... when we neglect Him, in the words of James 4:5 "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously".

**--different types of prayer...**

--meditation/worship, thanksgiving, intercession, confession, supplication

--in Colossians Paul begins his prayer with thanksgiving and then intercedes for the Colossian church

## --intercessory prayer...

--exactly how intercessory prayer works is beyond our comprehension, but one thing that is crystal clear is that Scripture gives us many examples of intercessory prayer for us to follow.

--intercessory prayer for others is a heavenly activity that transcends human logic and involves a profound and mysterious interconnectivity between Jesus praying to the Father, us praying to the Father, and the Spirit of God within us praying to the Father.

--Jesus interceded in prayer for us during His ministry on earth: "**I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word...**" (John 17:20-24) "If you love Me, keep My commandments. **And I will pray the Father**, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." (John 14:15-18)

--Jesus intercedes for us in heaven now: "Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**" (Hebrews 7:24-25)

--the Holy Spirit within us intercedes on our behalf: "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**" (Romans 8:26-27)

--and we intercede for others, as the following examples illustrate...

--Romans 15:30-31: "Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you **strive together with me in prayers to God for me...**"

--Luke 2:36-37: "Anna, a prophetess... **served God with fastings and prayers night and day.**"

--Philippians 1:19: "I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance **through your prayers** and the **provision of the Spirit** of Jesus Christ."

--Hebrews 13:18-19: "**Pray for us**; for we are confident that we have a good conscience, in all things desiring to live honorably. But I especially urge you to do this, **that I may be restored to you the sooner.**"

--Colossians 4:2-4: "**Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving**; meanwhile **praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word**, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in chains, that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak."

--2 Thessalonians 3:1-2: "Finally, brethren, pray for us, **that the word of the Lord may run swiftly and be glorified**, just as it is with you, and that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith. "

--1 Thessalonians 5:25: "**Brethren, pray for us.**"

--Ephesians 6:18-20: "...**praying always** with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and **supplication for all the saints — and for me**, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak."

--Jesus commanded His disciples to pray that God would raise up more disciples: "Then He [Jesus] said to them [disciples], "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore **pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**" (Luke 10:2)

--**Jesus commanded us to pray for our enemies...** Matthew 5:44: "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you..."

--**simply praying for our enemies can not only impact our enemies but it can also be a powerful relief from emotional stress caused by our enemies!**

--**powerful principle that helps make prayer more alive...**

--*About two hundred years after the Puritans came the man recognized as one of the most God-anointed men of prayer ever seen by the world, George Muller. ... In the spring of 1841, George Muller made a discovery regarding the relationship between meditation and prayer that transformed his spiritual life... – Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines For the Christian Life*, pg. 74*

--George Muller wrote, *Now, I saw that the most important thing was to give myself to the reading of God's Word, and to meditation on it, that thus my heart might be comforted, encouraged, warned, reprov'd, instructed; and that thus, by means of the Word of God, whilst meditating on it, my heart might be brought into experimental communion with the Lord. ... **The result I have found to be almost invariably this, that after a few minutes my soul has been led to confession, or to thanksgiving, or to intercession, or to supplication; so that, though I did not, as it were, give myself to prayer, but to meditation, yet it turned almost immediately more or less to prayer.** When I have been for a while making confession or intercession or supplication, or have given thanks, I go on to the next words or verse, turning all, as I go on, into prayer for myself or others, as the Word may lead to it, but still continually keeping before me that food for my own soul is the object of my meditation. The result of this is that there is always a good deal of confession, thanksgiving, supplication, or intercession mingled with my meditation, and that my inner man almost invariably is even sensibly nourished and strengthened... – as quoted in *Spiritual Disciplines For the Christian Life*, pg. 75*

--meditation on scriptural truth can be a precursor to prayer or a part of prayer. Worship songs, Bible reading, listening to the Bible on CD, and Bible memorization all facilitate meditation.

--one might think that praying scripture is simply telling God something He already knows, but there is a deeper substance in prayer than just the simple facts! **Praying scriptural truth in an attitude of worship during prayer opens up new channels for God to speak to us and give us new insights into the scriptural truth we are praying.**

--meditation / praying Scripture is not a matter of rattling off Scripture at the standard reading speed of 250 wpm, but rather it is a matter of rolling each word or thought in a passage over and over in our minds, sometimes as slow as 1 word per minute.

--memorizing Scripture can be an especially potent technique to help make meditation a part of prayer.

--being in a prayerful state of mind while reading Scripture is a form of meditation, but there is greater potential when you aren't limited by the neurological channel between your brain and the pages of Bible... the difference could be compared to the difference between a dial-up internet connection and a dsl connection.

--one practical technique to help memorize Scripture is to print out abridged versions of each book and then memorize abridged versions of each book... a gradual process that spans a lifetime!

--the natural flow of the book and order of the book serves as a memory aid, opposed to random, isolated passages.

--memorized portions of Scripture become like spiritual songs we can sing in our hearts in prayer or anytime throughout the day!

--Colossians 3:16: "**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly** in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

--Hebrews 4:11-12: "For the word of God is **living and powerful...**"

--Romans 12:2: "And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind..."

--Colossians 3:1-2: "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth."

--examples of praying Scripture / scriptural truth combined with supplication prayer: 2 Kings 19:15-19, Jeremiah 32:16-25, Acts 4:23-31, John 17:1-12