

## Paul's Powerful Prison Prayer - Part 1

### Colossians 1: 9-11

**Main Point:** Paul's prayer is a model of how to pray.

## Introduction

- Colossians 4:12 says, “*Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.*” How would you describe fervent prayer? Do you pray fervently?

## Understanding

### 1. Characteristics of Prayer.

- a. What had Paul heard about the Colossians in verses 1:3-8 that caused him to be thankful and pray for the believers in Colossae?
- b. Pastor John mentioned there were 6 characteristics of Paul's prayer mentioned in Colossians 1:9. Describe each.
  - i.
  - ii.
  - iii.
  - iv.
  - v.
  - vi.

### 2. Spiritual Intelligence. Read Colossians 1:9.

- a. Paul was concerned because the believers in Colossae were being influenced by false teaching. What were the false teachers teaching? See the commentary below for background.
  
- b. What does it mean to pray without ceasing?
  
  
  
  
  
- c. What two specific things did Paul pray for the Colossians? Explain why these things were important for the Colossians.
  - i.
  - ii.
  
- d. Why is such a prayer appropriate for believers today?
  
  
  
  
  
- e. What is the difference between the knowledge of God's will, spiritual wisdom, and understanding? How are they related to each other? Can you have one and not the other?
  
  
  
  
  
- f. Based on Colossians 1:9, what is the responsibility of each individual believer in the spiritual health of the church?

**3. Practical Obedience. Read Colossians 1:10-11.**

- g. What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord?
- h. How can believers be fully pleasing to the Lord?
- i. What does it mean for a Christian to bear fruit? Take a look at Galatians 5:22-23 for insight.
- j. What does Philippians 3:10 teach us about a growing walk in Christ?
- k. What fruit comes from being strengthened in God's power according to verse 11?

## **Application**

- How will this study affect your life as you grow in knowledge and wisdom of Christ?