

## **“TALKING TO GOD ABOUT WHAT’S ON HIS HEART”**

### **Colossians 1:3-14**

#### **The Importance of Praying God’s Heart**

● “What you talk about most, reveals what you value most.” This is true in earthly relationships and it’s true in prayer. What you pray about says a lot about what your priorities are. Are your values pleasing to God? Do you talk to God about what he values – or just what you value?

#### **Praying Colossians 1:3-14 for the Church**

► *Colossians 1:3-4* “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all his people.”

- He “always” thanks God for them – more than once a week or once a month!
- Our problem is that we get so caught up in “me and my family” prayers that we too often neglect the church, the bride of Christ. If God is going to fulfill his purposes in us as a church, we’ve got to make it a priority right up there with “me and my family” prayers.
- To pray for the church will mean praying for the church generally – but it also means praying for the church specifically – specific people. So **“thank God”** for specific people who have a living **“faith”** in Jesus, and who have a visible **“love”** for others. We also thank God for each other because we see people who “understand God’s grace in all its truth.” (vs. 6) ➔ PRAY.

► *Colossians 1:9* “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”

- It’s not because they were so weak that he prayed for them – it was because they were strong - not perfect, but strong. So why pray for a strong church? Because there is more! Always more!
- *How much more of God do you want?* Can you say in full honesty, **“I want your fullness, Lord!** Whatever it takes, I want all of you, Lord. Because that’s what I’ve been created for.” ➔ PRAY.
- This is a prayer to know what God wants – for you, for us, for others. It’s a prayer to see with “spiritual wisdom and understanding” - **to see every life situation and problem with God’s eyes:** our marriages, children, jobs, money, interpersonal conflicts.
- God has much to say about our *hearts* and he has much to say about *specific activities*. It’s all in this revelation to us – the Bible.
- This prayer is for the church *gathered* (assembled), and it’s for the church *scattered* (our homes, jobs, schools, friends. ➔ PRAY.

► *Colossians 1:10* “And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: . . .”

- It’s not just about obedience and doing the right thing – and it certainly is that. It’s also about **giving God pleasure – pleasing him**.
- He’s sad (not mad!) when you fail to experience his goodness, and when you fail to reveal him to others who need to know him. ➔ PRAY.

► *Colossians 1:10* “bearing fruit in every good work . . .”

- When we are the branches, staying relationally connected to him (Vine) with all his love and truth flowing into us, we will **bear fruit - good works** of kindness, love, forgiveness, patience. ➔ PRAY.

► *Colossians 1:10* “...growing in the knowledge of God...”

- “Knowledge” in the Bible is always about relationship - based on facts. It’s not just having Bible studies or sermons about God. It’s **taking information about God and using that to cultivate relationship between Him and us**. ➔ PRAY.

► *Col. 1:11* “...being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience...”

- The power God wants to give us isn’t the kind of power that is primarily designed to eliminate every negative or uncomfortable experience in our lives. This **“glorious might” is given to us so that we can have “great endurance and patience”**.
- Note Acts 5:41 - With bloodied backs they left “rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name [of Jesus].” every crisis is an opportunity to show the world endurance and patience. ➔ PRAY.

► *Colossians 1:12-14* “...and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

- Our thanksgiving is not primarily about inspiring sermons, dynamic children’s ministries, great worship teams... It’s that (1) We get to enjoy God’s **kingdom of light with other spiritual brothers and sisters** – the church!. . . (2) We are **rescued from spiritual darkness** (no longer prisoners to our fears, worries, control and pride; Jesus’ death “redeemed” us – he paid the price of his life in order to free us from captivity. . . (3) All our sins - those selfish attitudes, those words, deeds, thoughts and desires that exalt our way over God’s - they’re all **forgiven**. ➔ PRAY.

➔ So yes, pray your wish list – but only after having talked to God about his wish list. Align your will to God’s will first. Pray the heart of God.