

COLOSSIANS: A POWERFUL APOSTOLIC PRAYER

Last week we 'opened up' the first chapter of the Book of Colossians. Now we will dig into an amazing prayer that Paul pens for us and view some of the marvelous aspects of the majesty of Jesus.

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. Colossians 1:9-12 NASB

- ***Paul's prayer for the church at Colosse:***
 - ***He prays that they would be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. (v9)***
 - ***The Amplified Bible says that his prayer is for them to have... "comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God, and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things..." (v9)***
 - ***He prays these things so that they might have a 'worthy walk.' (v10)***

¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. Ephesians 4:1-2 NASB

- ***He prays that they will be pleasing to the Lord in all respects, in deeds, and devotional desires.***
- ***He prays that they will be fruitful in every good work, growing and increasing in the knowledge of God. (v10)***

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. Ephesians 1:17 NASB

Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16 NASB

- ***Paul prays that the light of their lives and their labor of love will grow increasingly.***
 - ***He prays that as they grow in their knowledge of God they will be strengthened with all power according to His glorious might...***
 - ***...“That they be invigorated and strengthened with all power according to the might of His glory...” Colossians 1:11 AMPC***
 - ***All power, the power of His Word, His ways, His love, His character, His gifts, and His wisdom.***
 - ***This invigorating power is to equip us for every kind of endurance, patience, and forbearance, with joy. V11 AMPC***
 - ***This is to result in our thanking God for Him qualifying us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.***
 - ***He has qualified everyone who believes in Jesus to share the inheritance of the saints in light.***
 - ***We know this because:***

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son. Colossians 1:13 NASB

- ***His rescue of us qualifies us in His eyes for His kingdom and His family.***
- ***This is some prayer!***
- ***Reviewing the Rescue:***
 - ***We believers have been rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of His beloved Son. (Colossians 1:13).***

- ***Other translations say that we have been transferred or transplanted from the authority, jurisdiction, or tyranny or control of darkness.***

***And you [He made alive], when you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins ² In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].
Ephesians 2:1-2 AMPC***

- ***Other translations say that we lived in sin following the ways of the world...in the midst of which you lived under the control of the present age of this world...and obeyed the ruler of the powers of the air...the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.***
- ***An interesting look at this from 2 Timothy 2:25-26:***

He must speak in a gentle tone when correcting the errors of opponents, in the hope that God will at last give them repentance, for them to come to a full knowledge of the truth and recover sober-mindedness and freedom from the Devil's snare, though they are now entrapped by him to do his will.

- ***Paul shows us through his instruction to Timothy how real the issue of rescue and being transferred truly is.***

¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. ²¹ And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach— ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister. Colossians 1:13-23 NASB

- **We have been rescued, redeemed, and transferred...where is our redemption? It's IN Him! (v13)**
- **Redemption means deliverance or release based on a ransom being paid. (14)**

"Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." Matthew 20:28 NASB

- **The word ransom was commonly used to describe the price paid to redeem a slave...He paid the price for everybody...but you have to say 'Yes!'**

And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood. Revelation 1:5 NASB

- **Ransom...release pardon, cancellation. (see Hebrews 10:11-18)**

[Now] He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]; He is the Firstborn of all creation. Colossians 1:15 AMPC

- **Image...the likeness form...the image of God in which mankind was created in...this word is used in the New Testament of the portrait imprinted on a coin...**
 - **..."The exact representation of His essence." Hebrews 1:3
Transline NT**

- **Jesus is the Creator (Colossians 1:16-20)**
 - **He created all things in the heavens and on the earth.**
 - **Everything visible or invisible.**
 - **Jesus created all thrones, dominions (or lordships), rulers and authorities were created through Him and for Him.**
(v16)

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might ²⁰ which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1:18-23 NASB

- **He is above 'it' all. (Colossians 1:17)**
- **The 'end game' is that He Himself will come to first place in everything. (v18)**
- **He is preeminent! (All of these truths about Jesus strike a strong blow against the Gnostics and their teachings) (v19-23)**
- **He is the 'fullness.'**
- **He is the 'reconciler.' He made peace between God and man by His blood on the cross.**
- **Consequently, He presents us holy, blameless, and beyond reproach before the Father...**
- **So keep the faith! We are in Him and He is in us...He is enough!**

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. ²⁵ Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God, ²⁶ that is, the mystery

which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, ²⁷ to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ. ²⁹ For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. Colossians 1:24-29 NASB

- ***Paul got to share in the suffering Jesus got when winning our atonement, when Paul preached the truth about the cross.***
 - ***Surprise! Paul says his preaching was for 'their benefit'....now you know!***
 - ***Paul declares 'Christ in you the Hope of glory to the Gentiles...the mystery revealed.***
 - ***Jesus in us...us in Him...the wisdom of God so that each person can mature and walk in 'complete-ness' of who Jesus is in us and who we are in Him.***
 - ***Paul says he fights, he strives according to the power of God operating in Him.***

For this I labor [unto weariness], striving with all the superhuman energy which He so mightily enkindles and works within me. Colossians 1:29 AMPC