

➤ Eph. 3:16-18

- b) **Endurance:** *This has to do with our waiting upon God while we endure so suffering in this world.*
- c) **Patience:** *this has to do with our bearing with others as we suffer the ill effects of their sin.*

iii. A gospel worthy walk that pleases the Lord always grows out of overflowing gratitude for what God has done for us in Christ.

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- What kinds of things might we learn from Paul's model for prayer if we make ourselves his "apprentices" in prayer?
- When Paul heard about the Colossians love, was he hearing about an emotion they had, or was there more involved? How was it expressed?
- How does a walk of faith and love grow out of the Gospel?
- When, according to Paul, did the Gospel begin to bear fruit and grow among the Colossians? How important is understanding of the Gospel to bearing fruit?
- Why is it essential that our increase fruitfulness corresponds to our growth in knowledge of the Lord?
- How does Paul's prayer show us that a Gospel worthy walk that pleases the Lord can only come from God's empowering? What does this tell us about the importance of watching for one another in prayer?
- How does the Gospel produce a heart filled with gratitude that leads to a walk that pleases the Lord?
- What was Paul's confidence in for the advance of the mission?

Being Paul's Apprentice in Prayer

Jerry Cisar—11/1/2009

Text: Colossians 1:3-14

Introduction: Being Watchful and Thankful

i. Colossians 4:2

I. Thanksgiving for What God Has Done through the Gospel (1:3-8)

A. When Paul prays, He always thanks God for them...

i. When did they start doing this for the Colossians?

➤ How is love shown?

■ Revelation 2:4-5

■ "love in the Spirit." (vs. 8)

This love created by the Spirit, is God's own love shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, enabling us to give one another that love recognizable by its likeness to God's own act of love in Christ.

- ii. How do these grow out of the Gospel?
 - a) The Gospel tells us about our hope stored up in heaven (vs. 5).

b) The Gospel focuses us on living for eternity.

➤ Matthew 6:25-34

- It teaches us not to worry about the stuff our culture is obsessed with.
- It rids us of the anxiety of living to save our lives, trusting God, which frees us to serve others.
- It teaches us to pursue as our central focus Christ's kingdom and Christ's righteousness as our own.

B. Thanking God for what He had done through the Gospel.

i. ***the word of truth, the Gospel!***

a) Matthew 13:23

ii. When did it begin to do so?

iii. How did it begin to do so? How did they receive it?

a) Epaphras, a fellow servant, a faithful minister

➤ Romans 10:14

II. Prayer for What God Does by the Gospel (1:9-14)

A. They never failed to ask God for what the Gospel can do.

i. *The Gospel began to bear fruit and increase among them when they understood the grace of God. Now Paul prays that their understanding will increase, so that their fruit will increase.*

➤ Ephesians 1:7-9

ii. Spirit-empowered Gospel understanding transforms how we live!

a) vs. 10 *that you may walk worthy of the Lord.*

➤ Ephesians 4:1-2

➤ Philippians 1:27

b) What pleases God? Gospel matching lives.

c) This can only be produced by Gospel grace.

B. **3 Ways We Can Walk Worthy of the Gospel:**

i. A Gospel worthy walk that pleases the Lord is not instantaneous, but grows as a fruit of Gospel understanding.

ii. A Gospel worthy walk that pleases the Lord can only come from God's empowering.