## COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS – LESSON 2 COLOSSIANS 1:9-14 WEEK OF DECEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 20

## PAUL PRAYS FOR THE SAINTS OF COLOSSE

Paul never visited Colosse. Paul's connection with the Colossian church came only from the report Epaphras brought to him. Yet, Paul consistently prayed for them from prison, in Rome, some 900 miles away. Paul shows his deep love for the Colossian church by praying for their spiritual growth and understanding. We will study the elements of Paul's prayer in **Col.1:9-14** that we too might follow the pattern which Paul has set for us by praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ.

"Even without the benefit of sophisticated scientific equipment or technology every Christian can minister directly to the spiritual well-being of other believers without seeing or speaking to them. We can play a role in their spiritual growth, and even secure God's blessings for them. The amazing means is prayer." <u>MacArthur New Testament Commentary Colossians and Philemon</u>, John MacArthur, page 25

Paul's prayer for the Colossians begins in **verses 9 through 11** with requests on their behalf. In **verses 12 through 14**, he gives thanks and praise to the Father for such a great salvation.

## Read Colossians 1:9-14.

- 1. From Col. 1:9, what did Paul ask of God on behalf of the Colossians?
- 2. Paul told the Colossians that "we have not ceased to pray for you", meaning that Paul prayed frequently for the Colossian church. Share with your group a time when someone was praying regularly for you. How did those prayers and petitions for you impact your life? Who is it that you are praying for regularly?
- 3. Paul prays that the Colossians would be filled with the knowledge of God's will. What do the following passages teach about God's will?
  - 1 Thess. 4:3
  - 1 Thess 5:18
  - I Peter 2:13-15
- 4. Read **2 Timothy 2:15 and 3:15-17** together with 2 **Peter 1:2-7**. What do these passages tell us about growing in the knowledge of God's will?

Believing, submissive Bible study leads to the knowledge of God's will. A mind saturated with such knowledge will also be able to comprehend general principles of godly behavior. With that wisdom will come understanding of how to apply those principles to the situations of life. That progression will inevitably result in godly character and practice. <u>MacArthur New Testament commentary Colossians & Philemon</u>, p.30

- 5. From Col. 1:10-11. What are the results of growth in knowledge, wisdom and understanding?
- 6. In **Col. 1:12-14**, Paul, in his prayer, moves from requests or petitions on behalf of the Colossians to thanksgiving to God for the gift of salvation. From **verse 12**, for what does Paul give thanks to the Father?
- 7. From Col. 1:13a, what is the additional cause for thanksgiving?
- 8. From Col. 1:13b-14, what is the blessing for which Paul gives thanks in these verses?
- 9. In summary of **Col.1:12-14**, God has (1) **qualified us** to share in such a rich inheritance in the saints in light (2) **delivered us** from the domain of darkness and (3) **transferred us** to the Kingdom of his beloved son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin. From the following verses, how are we to respond to His great work of salvation?
  - Psalm 95:1-3
  - Psalm 103:1-2
  - 1 Peter 1:3-6
  - 2 Cor. 4:17
  - 1 Thess. 5:9-11
  - What others would you add?

10. How has the study of Col.1:9-14 changed the way in which you will pray for others?

11. What changes do you need to make for the study of Gods transforming Word to become a priority in your life?