

## Paul Prays

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### COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

#### Using This Study

##### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

##### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

##### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Guest Speaker: **Wayne E. Martin**

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*BridgePoint Bible Church, Houston*

#### My Passions in Ministry

**People:** People are important and I desire to make people know they are important! Every opportunity is valuable, whether, taking time to demonstrate by a single greeting or a more prolonged visit. Getting to know them and being involved in their life wherever invited, especially when there is an open door for evangelism or to find application of God's Word.

**Teaching:** Making the scriptures clear and relevant is perhaps one of the most important matters I can be involved in.



#### A little more about me

At an early age, God brought a very special person into my life, my wife Andrea. Through the years she has been at my side no matter what the situation calls for. A support in all things, she is truly my ministry partner. Andrea and I have been married since 1963 and we have three wonderful children; Tim and wife Rosemary, David and wife, Jennifer, and Danah. Along with four special grandchildren, Morgan, Mason, Paxton, and Jessica, they all bring great joy and blessing to our lives. I came to faith in Jesus as Savior at the age of 24. I attended both Tennessee Temple University in Chattanooga, TN and Dallas Bible College in Dallas, TX, completing my undergraduate at College of Biblical Studies in Houston, TX. I enjoy reading theological books and articles and working around the house, especially outside in the flower garden and time with my our two little toy Australian Shepard dogs, Sassie and Mellie.

## INTRODUCTION

Typical of the Pauline epistles, Paul's letter to the Colossian Church, the opening 14 verses contains a Salutation, a Praise, and then a prayer of Petition. Today we will look at his Prayer of Petition in verses 9 through 14.

## ① EXAMINE His Word

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What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

### Read Colossians 1:9-14

<sup>9</sup>For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

<sup>10</sup>so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

<sup>11</sup>being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

<sup>12</sup>and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

<sup>13</sup>For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,

<sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

## ② EXPLORE His Word

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### OBSERVATIONS:

1. How many elements of his prayer can you name (what were his requests)?
2. How often did Paul pray for the Colossian Church?
3. Today we have a “cottage industry” developed around “Knowing the Will of God.” What was Paul’s take on the will of God?

## **INTERPRETATION:**

1. In this paragraph, what did Paul mean when he dealt with God's Will?
2. Paul prayed for the church to have *wisdom and understanding*. What is the difference between these two terms?
3. Paul's second petition grows out of his request for knowledge of the Divine Will; that they would "...live a life worthy of the Lord." What does that mean?

## **APPLICATION:**

1. A third request is that the Colossians "may please Him (God) in every way." Is there a difference between our *Position in Christ*, and our *Practical Living in Christ*?

2. If there is a difference, how do I live a life “pleasing to Him,” in this context?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. A fourth element of living a life “pleasing to the Lord” is to the “giving of thanks.” In the context, tell what is the chief reason for us to be able to be people constantly giving thanks to the Lord.

## **③ EMBRACE His Word**

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Why does this MATTER to me?

### **Summarize your thoughts on the passage:**

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

## **Sermon Notes**

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