

Challenged & Blessed

Paul's Message to the Church



So Glad You Made It!

Colossians 1:1-14

Colossians 1:1-14 (The Voice)

Paul, an emissary[a] of Jesus the Anointed serving at God's pleasure, along with our brother Timothy ² to you, dear holy and faithful brothers and sisters in the family of the Anointed who live in Colossae. May grace and peace from God our Father [and the Lord Jesus, the Anointed One][b] envelop you.

³ As always, we've been praying for you, thanking God, the Father of our Lord Jesus the Anointed, ⁴ ever since we heard of your faith in Jesus the Anointed and your love for His holy ones— ⁵ a faith and love that emerge from the hope you have heard about in the word of truth—the gospel—the very hope that awaits you in heaven. ⁶⁻⁷ The same gospel that was brought to you is growing and bearing fruit all over the world, just as it has been growing among you since the day you heard and took in the truth of God's grace from our beloved fellow servant Epaphras. (He is a faithful minister of the Anointed on our[c] behalf.) ⁸ He was the one who told us how you demonstrate your love in the power of the Spirit. ⁹ Since the day we got this good news about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We ask:

This is a prayer for knowledge and insight that only can come from God.

Father, may they clearly know Your will and achieve the height and depth of spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ May their lives be a credit to You, Lord; and what's more, may they continue to delight You by doing every good work and growing in the true knowledge that comes from being close to You. ¹¹ Strengthen them with Your infinite power, according to Your glorious might, so that they will have everything they need to hold on and endure hardship patiently and joyfully. ¹² Thank You, Father, as You have made us[d] eligible to receive our portion of the inheritance given to all those set apart by the light. ¹³ You have rescued us from dark powers and brought us safely into the kingdom of Your Son, whom You love ¹⁴ and in whom we are redeemed and forgiven of our sins [through His blood].[e]

Questions:

Think about your first experiences of praying. Who taught you to pray? Do you have traditional family prayers? How have you passed on prayerful living to your family and friends?

What is prayer?

What prayer did Jesus teach the disciples? What role does this prayer play in your life?

v. 9b says "So we have not stopped praying for you." What is it that the author is praying about/for in this letter?

How do we live a prayerful life and press the space bar?