

September 15, 2024
Ephesians 1:15-23
“Devoted Prayer Warriors Needed”

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Colossians 4:2, “Devote yourselves to prayer; stay alert in it with thanksgiving,”

Jesus prayed to the Father on Peter’s behalf just before he denied Jesus. **Luke 22 :32**.

“And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’” **II Kings 6:17**.

James 5:16, “Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.”

Colossians 1:9-12, “For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven’t stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints inheritance in the light.”

V 15, because of: the believer’s acquisition of every spiritual blessing-including election, predestination, adoption, grace, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, understanding, knowledge of the mystery of His will, the sealing of the Holy Spirit, and the inheritance-Paul now prayed that his readers might know God personally and intimately. Paul heard of their faith in Christ. This was a vertical relationship. He heard of their love for other believers, a horizontal relationship. A proper relationship with God should lead to a proper relationship with other believers. *Harold W. Honer*

V 17, from this point on to the end of the chapter Paul prays for God to give the church true comprehension and appreciation of who they are in Jesus. This so that they will have an idea of all the magnificent and unlimited blessings they already possess in Jesus. Paul prayed that God would give them wisdom and revelation of Who He is. How do people get off track with this? In Colosse the church was know for having a philosophy that something was missing and some ritual or act could fulfill it in addition to salvation, not! Some felt the need to add legalism to their salvation that had already provided all they needed. Others had a sin problem with pride and mysticism. Visions and such needed to fill the proverbial cup. Still others practiced asceticism. The idea was, deprive yourself of pleasure, and comfort an avoid contact with others to “arrive.” Our problem today is not a lack of blessings, but a lack of insight and wisdom to understand and use them properly and faithfully. Gleaned from *John MacArthur*

Application:

In **vv 21-23**, Paul moves from His might to His majesty. These verses focus on perspective. He is in charge. Don’t focus on problems, focus on His: purity, greatness, holiness, power, and majesty. Focus on Him not your circumstances. God is far above all, He has all in subjection now and forever for that matter. Confidence in the Lord will grow as you pray for others in this way. Who have you prayed for today?