

Gospel-centered Prayers > Colossians 1:1-14

1:1-2 A heartfelt greeting: Paul (with Timothy) writes to the church at Colossae. His desire? To encourage this church with the grace and peace of the Lord.

1:3-8 Why Paul gives thanks in prayer: he thanks the Lord for the Colossians' faith and for how that faith is tangibly expressed in their love for one another. Paul sees all of this as evidence of the fruit produced by the gospel, which started with Epaphras, but ultimately is credited to God.

1:9-14 What Paul prays for: after giving thanks, Paul now gives his requests to the Lord. Paul prays that the Colossians would be filled with a knowledge of God's will and that they would walk worthily of the Lord. How? That the Colossians would bear good fruit, increasing in the knowledge of God, that they would be strengthened, and would give thanks. All of this only happens by Jesus Christ and His work in them.

Context: Colossae was primarily a Gentile city, but it did have a significant Jewish minority. Paul didn't plant this church, but he has heard of them and seeks to build them up in Christ. The whole letter focuses on Christ's transforming work.

Aim: The Colossians need to be encouraged at how God is at work in them; and challenged with how that work calls them to live and think differently from the influences around them.

Gospel: Christ is at work in the Colossians. He alone has the power to continue their growth. Their role is to respond.

Applications: Are these the things you give thanks for? How should the way that Paul prays change how you pray?

Here is how I will apply these truths: _____
