

## THE CONTENT OF A CHALLENGING PRAYER

### Colossians 1:9-14 (Philippians 1:3-11)

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*Think about the way you usually pray together as a Bible study group. What are the kinds of things that you find yourself most often praying for one other (sometimes over and over again)?*

#### READ Colossians 1:9-14

1. What is the one thing that Paul keeps praying for the Colossians over and over again (v. 9)? Of all the things Paul *could* have chosen to pray for continually, why do you think he chose this?
  
2. Read Psalm 143:10 and Romans 12:1-2.
  - i. What resources has God given us to discover his will?
  
  - ii. Why is it so important that we don't just discover God's will, but seek to *do* it as well?
  
3. Why does Paul keep praying this particular prayer for the Christians in Colossae (v. 10a)? What is the nature of the relationship between the petition and the purpose (i.e. why could the one never be achieved without the other?)

4. List the four practical outcomes of this prayer (vv. 10b-12)? What is the relationship between Paul's recap of the gospel in verses 13-14 and these four signs of someone who is living a life that is pleasing to the Lord?

#### APPLICATION

- One of the impressive things about Paul's prayer for the Colossians is that he had never met them personally.
  - What praying do you do for believers you've never met?
  
  - How could you (both as an individual and as a Bible study group) improve in this area?
  
- Look back over those practical outcomes you listed before. What are some achievable, concrete steps that you can take (perhaps even starting this week) to grow in each of these four areas of the Christian life?
  - Bearing fruit in every good work ...
  
  - Growing in the knowledge of God ...
  
  - Being strengthened so as to show great endurance and patience ...
  
  - Joyfully giving thanks to the Father ...

*Pray for one another (as well as for some others you've never personally met) using Colossians 1:9-14 as your guide.*