

Colossians 1:1-14

Before you get to the questions, take some time to review and summarize Sunday's (September 18) sermon.

1. In Colossians 1:4-5, we read about Faith, Hope and Love. Why are they important words? What do we learn about the relationship between the three themes?
2. Is one of the virtues (Faith, Hope and Love) more important than the others? Does the use of hope in 1:27 elevate it? Does it make it more important than the others?
3. Note the phrase "the word of truth, the gospel" (:5) Take a few minutes to highlight the key points of the gospel?
4. The Colossians had heard the same gospel that was spreading throughout the world. Comment on the consistency of the gospel message throughout history? In light of the importance of consistency, what responsibility do we have as we pass on the gospel?
5. As the gospel spreads, it bears fruit (:6) What is the fruit of the gospel?

Read 1:9-14. As you read it, keep in mind that this is one long sentence that makes up a prayer.

6. What do you commonly pray for? How does that contrast with Paul's prayer for the Colossians?
7. Paul prays that they would be "filled with the knowledge of his will" (:9). What does that mean?
8. Look at context to that prayer, "from the day we heard we have not ceased to pray for you". What had they heard? How does that connect to the prayer?
9. Sometimes when we think of knowing God's will, we think more specifically of questions like "whom shall I marry?" Or "should I go into ministry?" Is there a more general sense Paul has in mind when he prays that they would know God's will?
10. Paul is dealing with the threat of Gnosticism. How does this connect with his prayer that they be filled with "a knowledge of his will"?
11. Paul's goal for the Christians at Colosse is that they "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord." Unpack what this phrase means. What are the key differences between this and someone who is trying to live their life in order to earn salvation (if that were possible!!). Why is that an important distinction?
12. Colossians 1:10-11 has a number of characteristics that expand on what it means to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel. What are they?
13. What are the three reasons to give thanks, outlined in 1:12-14?
14. Moving forward, is there a way that Paul's prayer could better shape how we pray?
15. Think about what has been discussed at the study tonight. Is there one thing in particular that we can pray for you?

