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## The Work of the Father in the Gospel

A Study in Colossians

### I. **The Text** - *Colossians 1:3-14* (See Block Diagram handout)

### II. **The Meaning**

#### A. **Thanksgiving Given to God for Faith in Colossae.** (1:3-8)

##### 1. The Occasion for Giving Thanks (3)

- a) When \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ pray for the Colossians, they \_\_\_\_\_ give thanks to God.
- b) God is the \_\_\_\_\_ of our Lord Jesus Christ.

##### 2. The Reason for Giving Thanks (4-6)

- a) Paul and Timothy give thanks to God because they heard of:
  - (1) The Colossian's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) The Colossian's \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (3) The Colossian's \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) Paul says that \_\_\_\_\_ is the foundation of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- c) The Colossians received this hope through the \_\_\_\_\_.

##### 3. The Role of Epaphras (7-8)

- a) Epaphras \_\_\_\_\_ the Colossians the gospel.
- b) Epaphras is a:
  - (1) \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (2) \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ to Colossae.
  - (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to Paul from the Colossians.

**B. Prayer for Spiritual Growth in Colossae. (1:9-14)**

1. The Reason for Paul's Prayer (9a)

a) Paul prays for those in Colossae \_\_\_\_\_ he has been told of their \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.

b) Paul and Timothy are \_\_\_\_\_ in their prayer for the Colossians.

2. The Petition of Paul's Prayer (9b)

a) Paul prays that God would \_\_\_\_\_ the Colossians with \_\_\_\_\_ of His will.

b) The knowledge is about all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The Purpose of this Petition (10a)

a) The purpose for knowledge is so the Colossians would \_\_\_\_\_ in a worthy manner.

b) Walking in a worthy manner is fully \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ.

4. The Means of Walking to Please Christ (10b-12a)

a) By means of \_\_\_\_\_.

b) By means of \_\_\_\_\_.

c) By means of \_\_\_\_\_.

d) By means of giving \_\_\_\_\_.

5. The Reminder of God's Work in Salvation. (12b-14)

- a) The Father \_\_\_\_\_ the Colossians to have \_\_\_\_\_.
- b) The Father \_\_\_\_\_ the Colossians and Paul from the \_\_\_\_\_ of darkness.
- c) The Father \_\_\_\_\_ the Colossians and Paul into the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.
- d) This transformation is made possible because Christ \_\_\_\_\_ the Colossians from their \_\_\_\_\_.

### III. The Application

- In verses 3-8, what does Paul identify as the reasons we have to be thankful?
- What role does thanksgiving play in our spiritual growth? What types of counseling issues can thanksgiving be the antidote to?
- How does Paul highlight the work of each person of the Trinity in his prayer? Are you mindful of distinctions within the Trinity when you pray?
- What are some of the ways God has clearly and specifically revealed his will for our lives in Scripture?
- How does knowing God's general will help us live in a way that pleases Christ?
- What past and present benefits of salvation drawn from this passage could you use to give hope to counselees?