

Series Title: #everythingchanges
Message Title: Understanding the Gospel
Passage: Col. 1:9-14

Overview:

One of the most helpful insights into how Paul viewed the impact of the gospel on our lives is to examine how he prayed for his fellow Christ followers. Having thanked God for the powerful evidence of the gospel already being displayed in the lives of the believers in Colossae, Paul offers a prayer for them to continue growing in their faith. This prayer offers us a way to see how our understanding of the gospel changes everything in our lives.

Engaging with each other

1. Pull out all the rectangular cards in your wallet. What did you have to do to qualify for these?
2. Think of your normal prayers for yourself and your loved ones. What kinds of things do you pray for?

Engaging with the text

1. Have someone read the whole passage.
2. What is the main thing Paul asks God to do for the Colossian believers? (v. 9) Why do you think he prays this *continually* for them?
3. What is the purpose of growing in the knowledge of God's will? (v.10)
4. Paul describes a life that is worthy of the Lord and pleases Him with the descriptors listed below. For each discuss what you think it means and how it contributes to a life that honors Christ.
 - a. Bearing fruit in every good work
 - b. Growing in the knowledge of God
 - c. Being strengthened with His power in order to have endurance and patience
 - d. Giving thanks to the Father
5. Paul closes the prayer by reminding them of the things they are to thank the Father for. (vs. 12-14) How would you summarize what God has done for us?

Engaging with our lives

1. Near the end of this prayer, Paul contrasts two kingdoms. One is called the kingdom of darkness and the other is called the kingdom of light and the kingdom of the Father's beloved son. What are some implications for my life that I have been delivered from the former and brought into the latter?
2. What are some ways I can put myself in the position to be filled with the knowledge of God's will?

3. Consider turning this passage into prayers (see below) and praying it daily for yourself and for your loved ones.

For yourself and other believers:

Father God, I ask you to fill _____ with the knowledge of your will and to give _____ spiritual wisdom and understanding. Help _____ to live a life worthy of you Lord and to please you in every way. Enable _____ to bear fruit in every good work and to grow in knowledge of you. Strengthen _____ with the power of your glorious might so that _____ might have great endurance, patience and joy. I thank you Father that you've qualified _____ to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light and have rescued _____ from the dominion of darkness. Thank you for bringing _____ into the kingdom of your beloved Son in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

For those you aren't certain know the Lord:

Dear Father, I pray that you will rescue _____ from the dominion of darkness and bring _____ into the kingdom of your beloved Son so that _____ may have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.