

A Powerful Prayer

Colossians 1:9-14

A. OBJECTIVE (1:9). For what does Paul pray on behalf of his readers? (He prayed that they might be filled with what?)

1. How often did he pray?
2. How do we acquire all spiritual wisdom and understanding?
3. What should we be praying for other Christians and for ourselves?
4. How would we act differently if we were filled with the full knowledge of God's will?
5. What are you praying for yourself?
6. What are you praying for other people?

B. RESULT (1:10). In Paul's prayer, what will be the result if we are filled with the full knowledge of God's will? In other words, how will we walk (live our lives)?

1. What will be our definition of pleasure?
2. In what way will we bear fruit?
3. In what area will we be increasing?
4. Can I say, "I am walking (living) in a manner worthy of the Lord?"
5. Am I pleasing Jesus in every area of my life?
6. Am I bearing fruit in every good work?
7. Am I increasing in the full knowledge of God?

C. ACHIEVEMENT (1:11). How will we accomplish what God wants us to do? (Paul prayed that God might strengthen his readers with what?)

1. What is the level of our empowerment?
2. What is to be the standard of our empowerment?
3. What is the result of our empowerment?
4. What is our attitude because of our empowerment?

5. Can I see improvement in my Christian life? Is God strengthening me and am I growing?

D. ATTITUDE (1:12-14). Paul continues to pray for his readers. Our attitude is to be one of gratitude to whom?

1. **REWARD.** In 1:12 we are to thank the Father because He has qualified us to do what?

- a. What kind of inheritance do you anticipate here on earth?
- b. What kind of inheritance do you anticipate in the eternal future?
- c. This is an inheritance characterized by *the* light. What does that mean?

2. **RESCUE.** In 1:13 we are to thank the Father because He has rescued us.

- a. From what has He rescued us? ¹
- b. To what has He transferred us?
- c. Have I been rescued and transferred?

3. **REDEMPTION (1:14).** The word redemption has the idea of "setting a slave free."

- a. Who is the one who set us free?
- b. From what did He set us free? (The last half of 1:14 answers this question.)
- c. Have I been set free from the slavery of guilt because of my sins?

4. Do I thank the Heavenly Father for my inheritance? Do I thank Him for rescuing me from the authority of the darkness? Do I thank Him for delivering me into the Kingdom of His beloved Son in the light? Do I thank Him for forgiving me for my sins?

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¹ 1:12 (Literally, "He rescued us from *the* authority of *the* darkness.")