

GRACE NOTES

Sunday, October 8, 2017

Series: Colossians—Jesus Is Enough

Message: Prayer from Prison

Scripture: Colossians 1:3-14

³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Study Notes:

What do you give thanks to God for most?

What do you ask God for most in prayer?

How difficult is it to pray for people you do not know?

In what ways this week have you discovered that Jesus is enough?

Thinking back to Sunday's service, what encouraged you, inspired you, challenged you, or changed your thinking?

How would you define—

Faith? _____

Love? _____

Hope? _____

How do your definitions fit with what Paul writes in verses 3-5?

Read **1 Thessalonians 1:3**.

How does this verse better help us understand faith, love, and hope?

In verse 9, Paul says that he asks that the Colossians be “filled with the knowledge of his [God’s] will.” How do we know God’s will?

What part does the Bible play in keeping us from straying from God’s will?

Can you tell of a time when God revealed His will to you through Scripture and how it changed your thinking or actions?

Although Christians are not saved because of their works, are our good works unimportant?

What does **Philippians 2:12-14** teach us about doing good works?

How can our good works reinforce our verbal witness?

Read **James 1:2-4**.

Paul also speaks of endurance and patience with joy. How can we have joy in our difficult times?