

Weekly Lesson Theme: Being An Authentic Church

Lesson Scriptures: Colossians 1:9-14, 21-29

Key Lesson Theme: "Growing In Christ"

Today's Lesson: Monday, April 22

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Colossians 1:9-14, 21-29

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

13 He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

14 In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

21 Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions.

22 But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him —

23 if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for you, and I am completing in my flesh what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for his body, that is, the church.

25 I have become its servant, according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known,

26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

27 God wanted to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

29 I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me.

The Bible Meets Life

We celebrate when someone comes to faith in Christ. That is certainly worth celebrating, but too often we stop "pursuing" the person once that faith decision is made. Now that the person is in Christ, we have an equally important responsibility to disciple and help the person grow in that relationship. Even as we ourselves grow in Christ; we have been given the privilege of helping others grow in Him.

The Setting

The church in Colossae had been subjected to teachings that threatened the integrity of the gospel. Paul was especially concerned about teachings that questioned the sufficiency of Christ. Thus, he wrote to encourage the believers and to warn them against being seduced by false teachings and to grow in their own understanding and commitment to the truth of the gospel.

Beginning with verse 3, Paul prayed a prayer of thanksgiving and supplication on behalf of his brothers and sisters in the faith. Verses 9-14 are a portion of that prayer. Verses 21-29 include an appeal to faithfulness to Christ and a reminder of Paul's personal ministry to them that contributed to their spiritual growth and maturity as believers. These verses remind us

that we too have a responsibility to help and encourage one another to grow
and mature in Christ.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday