

Colossians 1:1-14,

Questions

Paul begins his letter by telling the Colossians why he is thankful for them and what he asks God to do in them. Paul's example gives us a model for encouraging and praying for one another.

1. How does it make you feel when a friend tells you the specific things he or she notices and appreciates about you?
2. Read Colossians 1:1-8. What characteristics of the Colossians cause Paul to always be thankful for them (vv. 3-6)?
3. What does it mean to have faith?
4. What does repentance mean? What role does repentance play in having saving faith?
5. How do faith in Christ and love for other Christians spring from the hope described in verse 5?
6. What connection or relationship does faith have with good works?
7. What examples of faith, love and hope have you seen in a group of Christians?
Who in your church or fellowship group could you affirm this week for demonstrating those qualities?
8. What impresses you about how the gospel was spreading (vv. 5-8)?

9. How have others helped you to hear and understand the truth about God's grace?

10. Read Colossians 1:9-14. After affirming their strengths, Paul tells the Colossians what he prays for them. What are Paul's requests for how they think and act?

11. Why do you think Paul praised the Colossians before he tried to correct them? What is the best way for people to be able to correct you, is it by praising and appreciating you first?

12. What did Paul mean when he said that "we have not stopped praying for you?"

13. How might spiritual wisdom and understanding help us to understand God's will (v. 9)?

From what less helpful sources do we try to find knowledge of God's will?

14. According to Paul, true knowledge leads to a "life worthy of the Lord" (v. 10). What qualities does such a life include (vv. 10-12)?

How are these qualities related to each other?

15. In what specific ways do you see these qualities developing in your life?

16. How does Paul graphically contrast our condition before and after we became Christians (vv. 12-14)?

17. Reread verses 12-14, putting your name in each sentence. How would meditating on these verses help you to appreciate what God has done for you?

18. Take time to pray for your church or fellowship group, using verses 9-14 as your model.

