

PRAYING LIKE PAUL

PLP-15 "Paul's Prayer Team"

12/07/2025

COL 1:7-8 "just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit."

As we look into the details of these words, we notice the desire Paul had to see these Believers grow beyond what they could do themselves. In His "Letter", he will teach, correct, and admonish. BUT what is so powerful to us, is that He "believed GOD could – and would - do a supernatural work in them that would bring them to a fulfillment of the great potential of what God had placed IN them through the New Birth.

WHO IS "WE"?

COL 1:7 "...just as you learned it from **Epaphras** our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf..."

Numerous times in Paul's Letters he uses "**we / us**" to include his fellow-workers in the Gospel. He knows they have been effective in ministering with him, and he acknowledges that before the recipients it give them credibility and commendation.

Paul particularly uses this word of inclusion as he refers to his prayers. In this Letter, the principal minister in reference to the Colossians is "Epaphras." Others with him in Rome included *Luke, Onesimus, Mark, Aristarchus, Demas*, and probably *Timothy* and *Epaphroditus*.

COL 4:14 "**Luke** the beloved physician greets you, as does **Demas**."

PHILEMON 23 **Epaphras**, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you,²⁴ and so do **Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke**, my fellow workers.

- **For this cause...** [vs9]- Because of all he has heard about them from Epaphras, beginning with his thanksgiving in verse 3...
 - They were as engaged in "prayer and thanksgiving" for the Colossian Saints as Paul was...
 - This probably included both joint and solitary Prayers...

- **Epaphras is particularly recognized for his participation...**
 - He was their "Principle minister ... Pastor" [1:7-8]
 - His prayers were intense and passionate [4:12-13]

THEIR PRAYER FOLLOWS THEIR MINISTRY

Paul refers to The Gospel with the title, "**THE WORD OF THE TRUTH.**" He has used this phrase before in EPH 1:13

"**In him you also, when you heard THE WORD OF TRUTH, THE GOSPEL of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit...**"

In Col 1:5-6 Paul has proclaimed that the Gospel... "**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..."

- The **F-H-L** of the Colossian Believers is the fruit of the reality of the Gospel in their lives... [vs 5-6]
- **Epaphras** has brought Paul a glowing report of how greatly the power of the Gospel has transformed these "**once pagan**" believers...
- His prayer is based upon what is growing and developing... These are not "new" believers he is trying to get grounded in the basics... They are "seasoned Saints" that he is "praying on toward maturity"
- When He prays... This is the "sense" of the prayer
 - **"Praying..."** - Genuine communion – conversational prayer expecting "dialogue" with The Father, and Jesus Christ ... by the Spirit
 - **"Asking..."** A personal request – direct - as a son to his father – carries a sense of "privilege" – even demand
- Paul's conversation and request of GOD is for the "**further development**" of the lives of these saints
- Whereas the prayer of PHIL 1:9-11 focused on "**outward display seen in the world**"...
- **THIS** prayer is more about an "**inner display that is manifested to the FATHER**" ... showing their growth in true character ...
- **Paul** is "...asking THE FATHER to help them develop the very qualities that HE Desires and that HE can see..."