

February 16, 2020

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Unceasing Prayer

Colossians 1:9-14

1. Ask God to **CONFORM** your will to *His*, v. 9 (cf. 3:16; Matt. 6:10; Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 2:13; Eph. 1:17-19; 5:15-17; James 1:5; Prov. 2:6).
2. So that your life becomes more like **JESUS**, vv. 10-14 (cf. 2:6, 3:4, 17; John 15:4-5; Phil. 1:27; Eph. 2:10, 6:10; Heb. 12:2; 1 John 2:6; Isaiah 11:1-2).
3. So that your life would fully **PLEASE** God, v. 10 (cf. John 8:29; 2 Cor. 5:8-10; Eph. 5:8-10; 1 Thess. 2:4).

Family Time:

What are some things that children know their parents want them to do? Paul prays that the Colossians would be filled with a knowledge of God's will. Using appropriate Scriptures, what are some things that we know God wants for our lives? Pray as a family that God would empower you to do the things you know He wants you to do.

#### **For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:**

*Answer the following questions after reading Colossians 1:1-14*

1. Paul had already made clear that the Colossians' hope was in heaven (v. 5) and that they were bearing fruit (v.6). Why then was there a need to pray unceasingly for them (v.9)? What was the threat? What is the threat to our hope and fruit?
2. What does it look like to be "*filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding*" (v. 9)? Where does that knowledge, wisdom and understanding come from? How do you get it? Do you have it? How do you know?
3. What does it mean to "*bear fruit in every good work*" (v. 10)? Are you doing that in your role in your home, office, community, church, etc.? How have you seen the Spirit empower you in this area? In what ways do you need help? How can the body of Christ help you to become more fruitful in your walk to be like Jesus?
4. Paul's prayer for the Colossians was that they would have lives that pleased God by looking more like Christ. Make a list of people in your circle of influence and pray that prayer for them. Pray it for yourself.