Paul's prayer for the church

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Gray

Introduction

1. Text Colossians 1:9-12
2. Four times Paul prays for others from prison. Ephesians 1:15-19; 3:14-19; Philippians 1:3-11; Colossians 1:9-12
3. Paul was thinking of others more than himself; his praying for them shows this.
4. What Paul prayed for the church at Colosse we also need today, let us see what he prayed of them.

II Discussion

A. He prayed that they might have wisdom.
    1. He prays that they might be filled with knowledge. Vs 9
    2. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. Proverbs 1:7
    3. This only comes through study. 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11; 2 Peter 1:3
    4. He prays that they might have wisdom. James 3:13-18
    5. He prays that they might have understanding.
        a. We must understand the great truths of Christianity. Seen in Acts 17:11
        b. By attitude, all readiness of mind
        c. By activity, they searched
        d. By accuracy, whether these things were so
        e. By accomplishment, many believed. Acts 17:12

B. He prayed that they might walk correctly. Vs 10
    1. A Christian is to have the correct walk. Ephesians 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 2:12; 4:1
    2. Learning and living are coupled together we must live like we know.
    3. We are to walk in the light and not by sight. 1 John 1:7; 2 Corinthians 5:7
    4. Motive for walking correctly. Romans 12:1; 1 John 4:19; Ephesians 1:3
    5. Jesus is the example for walking correctly. Philippians 2:5-7
        a. God's will be done. Matthew 6:10; John 4:34; 6:38; Matthew 26:42
        b. He thought God's will, sought God's will He taught God's will
        c. We must do what is right just knowing is not enough.

C. He prayed that they might work. (every good work) Vs. 10
    1. Logical sequence we cannot work unless walking and can't walk without correct wisdom
    2. The scriptures furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17
    3. We must work while it is yet day. John 9:4
    4. Unto good works that we should walk in them Ephesians 2:10
    5. We are to be zealous of good works Titus 2:14
    6. The eldership is a good work. 1 Timothy 3:1
    7. Each must find our own place and do the work
    8. We must plan, pray and perform

D. He prayed that they might wait. Vs. 12

1. Waiting is the natural consequence of wisdom, walking and working Titus 2:13
2. Patience (vs. 11) Not just sitting down and waiting.
    a. Romans 8:28 work!
    b. We are to accept sorrow, suffering and tragedy and turn them into triumph to go forward in the midst of setbacks.
3. Longsuffering vs. 11not giving up on people
    a. A heart free of malice, bitterness, and hatred.
    b. We are to accept people as they are and not lose patience with them
4. Joy vs. 11 radiance that should clothe the Christian
    a. We have reasons to rejoice. Philippians 4:4
    b. Knowing who we are, what we are doing, where we are going.
    c. Oliver Wendell Holmes consider becoming a minister until he realized that preachers looked like undertakers.
5. Gratitude vs. 12 giving thanks
    a. In everything give thanks 1 Thessalonians 5:18
    b. For the inheritance 1 Peter 1:4
    c. For the mansion in heaven, John 14:2
    d. For the citizenship in heaven. Philippians 3:20

III Conclusion

1. Notice the word “all” in our text “all wisdom” “all pleasing” “every good work” “all might” “all patience”
2. These are all ours if we are living as the light that is set on a hill.
3. Are you the light to others? Why not become one by…
4. Maybe you have been one but your light is not a bright as it once was then come back.

Sources: Getwell lectureship on Colossians; Polishing the Pulpit 99