

Praying Paul's Prayers - Discussion Questions

Colossians 1:9-14

What sorts of things do we tend to pray about for ourselves and others? How does this compare with Paul's prayers?

In Colossians 1:9-11 Paul prays...

- that we might be growing in the knowledge of God – better understanding and appreciating His character and ways and so discovering what pleases Him
- that we might be pleasing God in every way – in all spheres of life; what we think, do and say
- that we might know God's glorious power to faithfully persevere and live a life that is pleasing to him

In Colossians 1:12-14 Paul prays, 'and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.'

What does Paul say God done for us in vs12-14?

What should be our response?

What place does joyful thanksgiving have in our prayer life? Why does it not have as prominent place as it should?

Tim Keller writes, 'It's one thing to be grateful. It's another to give thanks. Gratitude is what you feel. Thanksgiving is what you do.'

How can we grow a sense of genuine gratitude in our hearts?

How can we improve the way we express our gratitude in thanksgiving?

How do the realities of vs12-14 form the basis of Christian growth?