

Study 1

COLOSSIANS 1:9-12

PRAYERS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

THE Apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the Colossians shortly after being imprisoned in Rome around AD 62. News had come to him that certain false teachers were attempting to deceive the Colossians and lure them away from the Gospel they had originally received. He wrote this epistle at the same time he wrote to the Ephesians. As with all of his epistles, he commences with doctrine, then concludes with its application.

1. In Colossians 1:3, Paul says he was thankful about the Colossians' spiritual condition. Read Colossians 1:4 and 1:8, and note why he was thankful.

2. In Colossians 1:9, what was Paul praying for the Colossians, and why in particular might he be praying this way for them?

Based on what Paul goes on to write, it appears that Paul felt that praying this way is what was needed to help the Colossian believers reach full maturity in Christ.

3. In Colossians 1:10, what qualities does Paul list as the hallmarks of a fully mature believer in Christ?

Having the qualities listed in Colossians 1:10 are what are needed to be strengthened for the believer to patiently endure with ___ ! (Col. 1:11)

4. The Apostle Paul told the Colossians that God the Father had ‘qualified’ them. In what way were the Colossians qualified and *how* had they been qualified? (Colossians 1:12)

As we will see, the false teachers attempting to deceive the Colossians were teaching that faith in Christ alone was not adequate for salvation with God. Even in the first part of this opening chapter of his epistle we can see that he is laying a foundation to correct their false teaching.

5. With all that we have just looked at, perhaps you might take a few moments now to write a prayer for your church, drawing on Paul’s prayer for the Colossians for inspiration-

Amen.