

Sermon Big Idea

Because Christ rescued us into His kingdom, we pray for others' growth — not just their comfort.

Head: Grasping the Text

Goal: To grasp the theological concepts and historical context of the text.

1. Paul writes this prayer for a church he had never personally visited. Read Colossians 1:7-8 and 2:1. How did Paul actually learn about the Colossians, and what does that detail tell us about what real intercession requires — and doesn't require?
2. Look closely at verse 9: Paul prays that the Colossians would be filled with "the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." What's the difference between the kind of wisdom you can research or earn and the kind Paul is praying for here? Why does he specify it's *spiritual*? How does human and divine wisdom work together in everyday life?
3. In verses 12-14, notice that God is the subject of every verb — qualified, delivered, transferred, redeemed. What do you notice about the Colossians' role in these verses? Why might Paul have structured his prayer to move from petition (vv. 9-11) into thanksgiving for something already accomplished (vv. 12-14)?

Heart: Grasping the Internal Transformation

Goal: Examine how the text reshapes our identity, affections, and motivations to bring about honest self-examination.

4. Think about the last few times you prayed for someone else. Were your prayers mostly asking God to remove discomfort and smooth out circumstances? What would it look like to be honest with yourself about whether your prayers for others have a "ceiling" of comfort?
5. When someone asks you to pray for them, do you actually follow through — or does the request quietly fade once the conversation ends? What's underneath that gap for you: forgetfulness, busyness, or something else? What barrier keeps you from praying for others?

6. Col. 1:11 pairs endurance with *joy* — not gritted-teeth survival based on willpower. Is there someone you're praying for right now where your real hope is just "make this end quickly"? What would it feel like to also pray for God to sustain them with genuine joy, even if the hard season doesn't lift on your timeline? Is 'endurance with joy' a feature that flows through your life?

Hands: Grasping Your Next Step

Goal: To move from hearing the Word to living it out as a disciple with specific, practical, and achievable steps for the coming week.

7. Consider the four points of application--
- Upgrade your request--next to every "make them comfortable" add "help them grow..."
 - Pray Scripture over people (on the spot if possible!)
 - Close the gap between promise and practice
 - Let gratitude, not obligation, fuel the habit of intercession.

What resonates most with you? How can you form a new habit of integrating into your prayer life?