

Christ at the Core 4
The prayer God is waiting to hear you pray
Colossians 1:9-14
October 3, 2010

1. Is prayer easy for you? Do you have trouble knowing what to pray? What do you pray for most often? Do you find yourself praying the same things over and over? Do your prayers tend to be self-centered or Christ-centered? How can the prayer Paul prayed for the Colossians change our prayer life?

2. Who do you pray for most often? Who do you know who need to be “filled with the knowledge of God’s will?” Who do you know who needs to be “strengthened according to the power of God’s glorious might?”

3. Our knowledge of God should never stop increasing. What do you know about God today that you did not know a year ago? Remember it is not book knowledge. It is heart knowledge learn by applying his word to daily circumstances. What are learning about the will of God?

4. During the message an illustration was shared about the boss’s daughter who misrepresented the character of her father. Could you relate? In what ways do Christians fail to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord? What affect does that have on how people view the Lord?

5. Read Exodus 20:7. How do we typically apply this verse? How can you disobey this commandment without opening your mouth? Why is the Lord so concerned about His name being communicated with accuracy? John Wesley said: “My goal in life is to give the world an accurate picture of God.” Have you been giving the world an accurate picture of God?

6. Paul prayed for the Colossians to have endurance and patience. **Endurance** can be defined as “a state of emotional calm in the face of provocation or misfortune and without complaint or irritation.”¹ **Patience** can be defined as “the capacity to continue to bear up under difficult circumstances.”¹ What do you need endurance for? What do you need patience for? Do you believe God can strengthen you by the power of his might to endure that situation?
7. What makes you feel unqualified or disqualified? How does the truth of Col. 1:12-14 change how you deal with those feelings?
8. Do you remember what it was like to live in the domain of darkness? What was it like? Read John 3:19. Why would people rather live in the domain of darkness than the kingdom of light?
9. Read Acts 26:18. Do you believe the powers of darkness are real? Where do you see them working on our culture. Why should those who have been transferred from the domain of darkness be avoid occultic and spiritually dark elements surrounding things like Halloween?
10. Spend some time praying Col. 1:9-14 back to God. Personalize it to the things going on in your life but use as many words from this text as you can.

1. Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Vol. 1: Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament : Based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition.) (307). New York: United Bible societies.