

Life Group/Bible Study Questions
Week following 03/05/26: Colossians 1:3-14
A worthy life

Introduction: Praying for believers he has never met in person, Paul's prayer focuses on spiritual growth, fruitful works, and endurance, empowered by God's strength and characterised by joyful thanksgiving for salvation.

How have you been able to apply last week's study from Philippians 1 about praying for character rather than outcomes and having a goal of God's glory in your prayer life over the past week?

Read Colossians 1:3-14, then answer the following questions:

- a. **"The purpose of prayer is not to get things from God but to make us like God."** (Oswald Chambers) When you pray for others, do your prayers tend to focus on immediate needs (house move, dental woes, nightmare neighbour, awful boss), or long-term growth? How does that compare with the things Paul prays for here?
- b. (v3-4) **"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you..."** How often do we thank God for the work He's doing in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ? What might change if we regularly began our prayers by thanking God for all He has been doing in the life of UBC over the past year?
- c. (v9) **"We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..."** What do you think it means to be "filled" with the knowledge of God's will? How does this differ from just asking, "What decision should I make?"
- d. (v10) **"so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way..."** The word translated "worthy" (Greek: **axios**) signifies a set of scales: a life that "balances" or measures up to the weight and value of the gospel. There's no way our lives could ever equal the weight of what God has done for us - the gospel is too big for that. The picture of *axios* (scales) isn't about equal value, but about a fitting response. What might that look like in terms of our priorities, choices and attitudes?
- e. (v10) **"growing in the knowledge of God..."** (v10); **"All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten"** (Robert Fulghum, book) In what ways might we settle for a 'kindergarten' faith? How do we grow to know God better (rather than simply growing in knowledge about Him)? How does this challenge you? Are there any next steps you might take over the next week?
- f. (v12) **"...and giving joyful thanks to the Father"** It's one thing to be grateful. It's another to give thanks. How often do you find yourself grumbling and complaining (if only to yourself)? How can you actively foster a thankful heart?
- g. (v12) **"...the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light"** If God has already made us "qualified" by his grace, how does that reshape the way we live? Are we trying to become worthy, or learning to live out the worth God has already given us?

Prayer

As we approach the week of prayer, take turns to share with your group how you would like your prayer life to grow.

- a. Spend some time thanking God for His work in UBC and in your group over the last year.
- b. Pray that we might each grow in the knowledge of God over the year ahead.