



Colossians 1:9-14

Opening Up

- What are you thankful for this week?
- What is a challenge you're facing? Is there some way our group can help?

Gospel Reverberation

- With whom did you share what you learned from the sermon or Small Group last week?

Introduction

The initial success of the gospel in Colossae as recorded in verses 1-8 doesn't lull Paul and Timothy into slackening their prayer efforts for the fledgling Colossian church. Quite the reverse, it leads to even more intense prayer. They continue to pray for the Colossians because of what God has already done for them and also, that they might understand their blessings, their obligations, and their potential in Christ. Paul is not satisfied with mere conversion, he is writing this letter to the church because he knows that the mission is to be disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Pause and pray. *God, thank you for pursuing us even while we were still sinners. Thank you for sending your righteous Son to die in our place on the cross. We admit that we make mistakes and we fall short of your glory every day. Please forgive us and help us to begin to desire what you desire for us. God teach us and transform us through your Word today, so that we can follow you more closely as your disciples. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Bible Discovery

Read this week's passage out loud and discuss what the Bible says, what it means, and what it means for you and your group.



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1. What is one thing you learned or took away from the sermon this week?

2. As Pastor Jeff suggested in the sermon, there are four imperatives Paul gives to the Colossians, four things for them to set their focus on doing regarding their faith. Revisit those points and discuss the questions that follow:
 1. **Grow in knowledge** (v.9)
 - Do you believe we can clearly know God's will for our lives? Why or why not?

 - If you do believe we can know the will of God for our lives with confidence, what do you need in order to know it?

 - What is the goal of knowing God's will? (see v.10)

 2. **Live a worthy life** (v.10)
 - What good is knowledge of God's will without action?

 - Can a person "live a life worthy of the Lord and please him" without being a Christian? Why or why not?

 - How would you respond to a person that said, "I don't need Jesus or religion, I'm just working on being a better person."

 - What are characteristics of "a life worthy of the Lord"?

 3. **Be strengthened with power** (v.11)
 - What "power" is Paul referring to in v.11? (see Acts 1:8)



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- What is the power good for according to v.11?
- What types of things require patience and endurance?
- Do you believe people typically get what they deserve? Why or why not?
- Read Romans 5:1-5 together. What can suffering produce in a person who has Christ?

4. Give joyful thanks (v.12)

- Paul's fourth imperative for Christian living is a sweet reminder that the foundation of our faith is not about what we *do*, but rather what God has *done* for us. For what does Paul remind us to give thanks? What does that remind us about God's character?

Putting It All Together

The basis of Christianity is not what you can *do* to earn your way into God's favor, but instead it's believing in what God has *done* for you in the person and work of Jesus Christ. And yet when God invites us into His family through faith in Jesus, He loves us far too much to allow us to stay that way. When we are transformed we find ourselves living differently.

When you consider Paul's four imperatives for the Christian, *don't* look at them like a ladder to climb as though you can finish growing, look at them like an unending circle. This is the life of following Christ!

