

Paul's One-Sentence Prayer

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Colossians 1:9-17

Paul's Prayer for the Colossians

In Only One Sentence

Practical Needs <i>for Spiritual Growth</i>	Thanksgiving for <i>Eternal Salvation</i>	Glory of Christ <i>It Is All About Him</i>
<p>9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;</p> <p>10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;</p> <p>11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;</p>	<p>12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:</p> <p>13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:</p> <p>14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:</p>	<p>15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:</p> <p>16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:</p> <p>17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.</p>

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This is one of the most glorious sentences in all the Bible.
What do you need most in life? It is clearly listed right here.
What are your greatest blessings? They are listed right here.
What kind of praise does Christ deserve? Read it right here.
If you learn to pray this way, you are set for life and eternity.

For a Church to Reach Higher Ground

Perfect, inspired goals and prayer requests.
Heavenly perspective of glorious salvation.
Preeminence of Jesus by both His natures.

We Have Used this Prayer Before

Think 2000, 2003, 2019, and many mentions.
We forget easily due to carnal Christianity.
To be great Christians, we review it again.

To Be a Great Christian

You must be spiritually minded and fruitful.
You must know salvation and appreciate it.
Jesus will be preeminent in mind and heart.

To Be a Great Christian

You will not be content, but craving growth.
You will be thrilled for God's glorious grace.
You will lift Jesus up very high for all to see.

Do Not Slight What this Prayer Brings

Your thrill or lack tells your spiritual health.
If you cheat these three, you open to Satan.
If you should repent, do it, and run to Him.

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9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Prayer was due to their faith, love, hope, fruit, and love of Paul (3-8).

He always thanked God for their faith, love, hope, fruit, love (3-8).

But He and Timothy never stopped praying for further growth.

Never be content with your spiritual growth or with others'.

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Paul and Timothy prayed for these believers because of desire for them.

The Colossians needed to know all God's will to grow as Christians.

There is wisdom of the world and the wisdom to please God.

Spiritual understanding is fruitful in every good work.

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

That = the goal of their greater wisdom and spiritual understanding.

He wanted their walk – their lifestyle – to be worthy of the Lord.

And not just marginally or partially worthy, but completely.

God has not set the bar too high to fully please Him.

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Being = the means to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.

God wants us to produce ... to be fruitful ... in all godliness.

Our Father wants us to learn more and more of Him.

Wisdom pleases God, is fruitful, has fellowship.

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Paul's prayer and desire reached farther ... for them to suffer joyfully.

They could only do this if they were strengthened with all might.

They could have such strength by His great power in them.

God's divine power helps us do things pleasing Him.

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

This joy marks perfect Christians – endure negative events cheerfully.

This is Paul's last prayer request ... James said it was perfection.

Patience and longsuffering imply hardship or trouble.

Great Christians take pain cheerfully by Him.

Inspired Prayer Requests Are Different

Learning God's will and His spiritual wisdom.

Not for marriage, health, jobs, children, fun.

To fully please Him by fruit and fellowship.

Not for problems, relationships, or tests.

Divine help to endure trouble happily.

Not to be rich, happy, and healthy.

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Paul turned from prayer requests for them ... to thanking God for them.

All prayer should include thanksgiving ... as Paul taught elsewhere.

Every good gift – including salvation here – is by the Father.

Only God's grace makes us meet (or fit) for heaven.

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Many saints from Abel to Stephen were already in the light of heaven.

When we read of them, we can hardly imagine being with them.

Sinners must be greatly changed to be suitable for heaven.

To inherit the new universe with them is incredible.

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Four phases of salvation are crucial to get us to heaven – here is the vital.

The power of darkness is the kingdom and domain of Satan over us.

We could not escape the strong man's palace as his captives.

But the Stronger Man came and rescued us from him.

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

We rejoice Enoch was translated to heaven, but what of our translation!

We were moved entirely by power outside us just as Enoch was.

Our new man by regeneration can resist the devil to flee.

It took the same power as resurrecting our Lord.

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Four phases of salvation are crucial to get us to heaven – here is the legal.

By imputation and condemnation, we are sinners by Adam and us.

God's holy and righteous nature and law demands death.

But the blood (death) of Jesus bought us from it.

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Even = the explanation of what redemption achieved = *that is to say*.

With our sins forgiven, God's claims against us were paid in full.

With sins forgiven, we are righteous in the sight of God.

He no longer remembers our sins or iniquities.

Spiritual Thanksgiving Is Different

Humble appreciation for salvation to heaven.

Not for marriage, health, jobs, children, fun.

Grateful conscience for escape from Satan.

Not for weather, politics, family, or friends.

Knowing sins were paid for by His death.

Not for "this day" or other trivial fillers.

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Our God Jehovah is an invisible spirit ... but Jesus revealed Him to us.

No man can see God, but we can see God made flesh in Jesus.

This great mystery of godliness is God expressly shown.

The Son that saved by His blood is God in a body.

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

As a man, Jesus is a creature, made of a woman by supernatural birth.

But He is the Godman, with a divine nature far over all creatures.

Firstborn is His supreme position, as He created the others.

The Man Christ Jesus (fully God) is our glorious Savior.

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Jesus is the Greatest and Highest – as Creator God in His divine nature.

All things were made by Him; details and repetition here are right.

He created all natural and all spiritual things in the universe.

Any angelic authority or dominion was created by Him.

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

Let it be restated for certainty and emphasis – Jesus created all things.

But another fact of creation is glorious – all things exist for Him.

He is Source and Purpose of all things, including Satan.

The terms describe Jehovah – Jesus is Jehovah!

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

It does not say Jesus WAS before all things, for He IS eternal Jehovah!

He is I AM THAT I AM ... He told Jews, Before Abraham was, I AM.

As the Word, He was in the beginning with God and was God.

It is our duty and necessity to always see His two natures.

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Not only is our Jesus the Creator of all things, but He is also the Sustainer.

Paul elsewhere said Jesus upholds all things by the word of His power.

Sustaining strength to hold the creation together in order is His.

You may and should put all your faith and trust in Christ.

We end with ... *In Jesus name, Amen.*

Paul did much better, and so can we.

Honor of Jesus Is Deeper & Higher

Exaltation of the Godman over all others.

Not rote use of His name(s) without glory.

His role as Creator of all things for Himself.

Intellectual agreement not nearly enough.

Fervent desire to make Him preeminent.

Not forgetting passion for His person.

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For Further Study Similar to Colossians 1:9-17

Victorious Christian Living ... Sermon Series (2023) ... <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2023/victorious-christian-living-1/>

Higher Ground ... Sermon Series (2015) ... <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2015/higher-ground/>

Character without Christ ... PPT Sermon Series (2021) ... <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2021/character-without-christ-1/>

Twelve Facts for Christians ... Sermon Series (2023) ... <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2023/twelve-facts-for-christians-1/>

Measure of a Man ... PPT Slides (2019) ... <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2019/the-measure-of-a-man/>

Running Like Jesus ... Single Sermon (2004) ... <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2004/running-like-jesus/>

True Success ... Single Sermon (2000) ... <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2000/true-success/>