

## **Colossians: The Supremacy of Christ**

### ***1:9-14 Paul's Prayer for Spiritual Maturity***

Last week, we discussed Paul's introductory comments as he praised the Colossians for their faith, hope, and love. Now we will look at a prayer that is very typical of the Apostle Paul's letters. It would be easy to skip quickly through this prayer as though it was of minor importance; in reality, this prayer actually shows us what Paul's heart was for everyone he shepherded—their spiritual maturity.

#### **Read Colossians 1:9-12**

What exactly is Paul praying for the Colossians believers in verse 9?

Now, take the answer to the previous question and follow Paul's point into verse 10. If we have knowledge of God's will (verse 9), what is the end result, according to verse 10?

Verses 9 & 10 both mention knowledge. What is it we are to have knowledge of? Where do we get this knowledge?

#### **Read Colossians 1:12-14**

Verse 12 says that we have been qualified to share in God's inheritance. Who qualified you for this? What role did you have in being qualified?

Verse 13 describes a radical change in relationship for believers because God qualified us to be His children. Discuss what you were rescued from (see Ephesians 2:1-3 for more details of what this looked like). Then discuss to what family relationship you were transferred. How often do you focus on your past identity as though it were your present identity?

According to verse 14, redemption is further defined as the forgiveness of sins. We have heard this so many times ("God loves you and forgives you"). Sometimes you may hear something so often that it no longer has any real impact upon you. Take several minutes to discuss what you understand about forgiveness.

***Close your time together with prayer for each other's spiritual maturity.***