

Read Colossians 4:2-4

1. What does Paul ask the Colossians to pray for him as a gospel proclaimer?

2. How might this relate to our prayers for our link missionaries? Are there particular opportunities or issues of boldness to pray about?

Conclusion

1. How would you summarise how we can pray for our link missionaries even when we don't have specific prayer points?

2. How might these passages shape our prayers for them even when we do have specific prayer points?

Lets' keep praying the big picture – both for our link missionaries and they work alongside. Pray for bold proclamation, a godly lifestyle and faithful endurance, all to the glory and praise of God.

pray

COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

Introduction

We all know we should be praying for missionaries. It's a motherhood and apple pie sort of statement. But what should we be praying for? Do we need to have up to date prayer points in order to pray? Even when we have their specific prayer points, are there other things we should still be praying?

In this study we will look at Colossians 1:1-14 and observe how Paul prays for the Colossian Christians, who he has never met. We will consider how his model might shape our prayers for both our link missionaries and the people who they work amongst (who we have most likely also never met).

Opening question

What do you pray for people when you don't have their prayer points? (Do you pray?)

Read Colossians 1:1-14

1. From verses 3-8, what do we learn about the gospel and the Colossians? How is it described? How did it come? What impact did it have?

2. What is Paul's response to hearing about the gospel's reception among the Colossians?

After thanking God for his work among the Colossians, in verses 9-12 Paul prays for these people among who Epaphras has been working.

1. What does it mean for them to be 'filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding'?
2. How do verses 10-12 flesh out for us what it means to be 'filled with the knowledge of his will'? (Or, what is God's will for them?)
3. Is this different to what you first thought when you read the phrase?

This is the content of Paul's prayer for these new Christians Epaphras has been working with. These would be great things to be praying for the people your link missionaries work alongside (remember to pray for them and not just your link missionary).

Think about one of your link missionaries. How could we pray for the people they work with? Think of some things under these headings:

1. **Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord: Are there particular issues of godliness that the church struggles with in that location?**

2. **Bearing fruit in every good work: Are there opportunities we should pray for the Christians to take hold of in good works?**

3. **Growing in the knowledge of God: Are there certain areas where they would benefit from greater understanding?**

4. **Strengthened for endurance and patience: What are the trials and troubles Christians face in those places?**

We can also pray these things for our link missionaries as well.

Think of one of your link missionaries – what could we pray under each of these headings?

1. **Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord**

2. **Bearing fruit in every good work**

3. **Growing in the knowledge of God**

4. **Strengthened for endurance and patience**

These are also great things to be praying for ourselves!