

SERIES: *Colossians*
TITLE: *Prayer from Prison*
SPEAKER: *Pastor Bob Marvel*
PASSAGE: *Colossians 1:6-14*
DATES: *July 2-3, 2022*

MESSAGE TAKEAWAY

- Know the will of God through the word of God.
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Pastor Bob opened with a confession that sometimes his prayers don't seem as deep as Paul's prayers. How would you describe the majority of your own prayers? Are they more of a "wish list" or trusting God for whatever He wants to do, or something else?
 - What is the distinction between childish and child-like prayers?
 - Read Colossians 4:12. Have you ever "wrestled in prayer" for someone else? If you feel comfortable, will you share that with the group? Have you continued "wrestling in prayer" even when things seem to be turning around for them?
 - Read Colossians 1:9 and Romans 12:2. There are three levels of Paul's prayer for the Colossians: A) knowledge of God's will, B) spiritual wisdom and C) understanding. Bob said that we can have knowledge of God's will, but still not do it; that spiritual wisdom puts knowledge into practice; and then quoted his friend, Bill, saying "I understand there's nothing good for me outside of the will of God." Which of these stands out to you the most and why?
 - Read Colossians 1:10, John 15: 8 and Galatians 5:22-23, and verse 25. On one hand, we're not worthy on our own, but Colossians 1:10 tells us to "live a life worthy of the Lord" (or "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord"). What do you think that means? How do the verses in John 15 and Galatians 5 help you know what a worthy life looks like? How does the Holy Spirit help you accomplish this?
 - Read Colossians 1:11-12. How much of a contrast do you see in having "great endurance and patience" and "joyfully giving thanks?" Have you had an experience when these contrasts were simultaneously happening?
 - Read Colossians 1:12-14. Pastor Bob emphasized these three words: qualified, rescued and redemption, and said these three verses don't change for us no matter what our circumstances are. Does one resonate more with you than the others? Why?
 - How has this study helped you grow in knowledge, spiritual wisdom and understanding?
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NEXT STEPS

- Reread Colossians 1:9-14, and make it into a personal prayer to God about yourself and your loved ones.