

Praying for the Church

Col 1:3,9

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show some things to consider when praying for the church.

- Intro:
1. We are told to pray for all men everywhere (1 Tim 2:1)
 2. However, we shouldn't forget to pray for the church itself.

I. What should our petitions for the church include?

- A. To "be filled with the knowledge of His will" (**Col 1:9**)
 1. People can be destroyed if they lack Bible knowledge (**Hosea 4:6**)
 - a. "In all wisdom and spiritual understanding"
 2. We have many today who do not like to "retain God in their knowledge" (**Rom 1:28**)
 3. Others have a zeal but not according to knowledge (**Rom 10:2**)
 4. Paul wrote that God's will was that all men come to a "knowledge of the truth" (**1 Tim 2:4**)
- B. To "walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him" (**Col 1:10**)
 1. The word "worthy" is better translated "worthily"
 2. We are to walk worthily of the Lord (**1 Thess 2:12**)
 3. We are to "walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (**Eph 4:1**)
 4. We should not partake of the Lord's supper unworthily (**1 Cor 11:27,29**)
- C. To be "fruitful in every good work" (**Col 1:10**)
 1. We are to be fruitful (**John 15:1-6**)
 2. "Unto every good work" (**Titus 2:1**)
- D. To be "strengthened with all might" (**Col 1:11**)
 1. **Philippians 4:13**
 2. The Lord stood with Paul and strengthened Him (**2 Tim 4:17-18**)
 - a. He is always with us (**Mt 28:20**)
- E. To give "thanks unto the Father" (**Col 1:12**)
 1. We ought to always have gratitude (**2 Thess 1:3, 1 Cor 1:4**)
 2. **Ephesians 5:20**

III. Lessons for Us Today

- A. We should pray for the success of the congregation as a whole.
 1. We pray for the needs of others.
 2. We should also pray for the needs of the congregation. (**Ps 37:4**)
- B. We should pray for those who we are trying to reach. (**Rom 10:1**)
 1. Our number one priority is reaching the lost.
 2. We should pray for those whom we are trying to reach (**Acts 26:18**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. We should always pray that the church may have these qualities.
2. We should always pray for the local church and the Lord's church as a whole.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9