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Calvary Baptist Church, Pembroke, ON  
Sunday, August 6, 2017

*[9] For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, [10] so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, [11] being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, [12] and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. [13] For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Background. Today Colossae is an uninhabited archeological site in Turkey. At the time of Paul, it was a thriving community situated at the junction of some major trading routes. It was well known for its wool. Two nearby communities, Laodicea and Hierapolis, were overshadowing Colossae. Paul never visited the city, but had heard from Epaphras of the fruit of genuine gospel ministry that was established there (v. 7).

1. How do we know that the ministry at Colossae was important to Paul?
2. What kind of growth was Paul praying for in these believers?
3. Is it possible for Christians to know the will of God?
4. What four goals did Paul set out for these believers as he prayed for them (v. 10)?
5. As God strengthened these believers in response to the prayers of Paul, what qualities did he expect them to exhibit (v. 11)?
6. Why should we give thanks to God (v. 12-14)?
7. What lessons can we learn about prayer from Paul's example? How can we apply this in our Community Group, church or community of believers?