

There is always need for growth no matter how healthy a Christian, or church, appears to be.

Colossians

2

Like Paul, we should (1.) thank God for strong believers, (2.) continue to pray for them to increase in the knowledge of God, and (3.) pray for them as they apply that knowledge to day-to-day life in this world.

Paul is letting them know that their entire life should be shaped by the reality of their salvation.	
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The natural man does not accept the gospel or the wisdom of God, and therefore lacks discernment in life.	
COLOSSIANS 5	
James 3:13-18	
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A wise Christian is known by meekness, selflessness, peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy, good fruits, impartiality, sincerity, and being a peacemaker. Colossians	
The immature Christian looks at such a list and only sees their strong points, the wise Christian looks at such a list and begs God for strength in areas of weakness. Colossians	
Ephesians 4:1-3 Colossians	

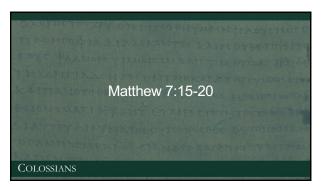
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1. Bearing fruit

Colossians

If a person claims to have faith but does not have any fruit to show for it, then they need to analyze what kind of tree they really are.

Colossians



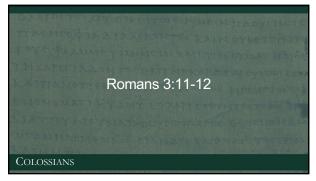
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2. Increasing in the knowledge of God.
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A true Christian desires to know God more and more about God because we love Him and desire to live lives that are pleasing to Him.

3. Being strengthened with all power Colossians	
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There is great joy that comes to a Christian as you endure difficult circumstances and show great patience with others.	
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God supernaturally did what you could not do.

COLOSSIANS

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The more you realize what he has done, and the less you take credit for, the more you will see the beauty of salvation by grace alone.

	Series: Colossians	3.	Our Church is known as a loving
	Sermon: Colossians 1:9-14		church. Should we thank God for that, pray for that love to increase, or both? See Col.
1.	According to Colossians 1:14, believers have received forgiveness of sins. How should this truth of the knowledge of God in salvation effect our application of forgiveness towards those who we feel have sinned against us? See Col. 3:13, Eph. 4:32, and Matt. 18:21.		1:3, Phil. 1:9. The best way to have a loving church is for you to be a more loving person. A church is only as loving as its members. Should we pray for an increase of love for one another? What can you do to express a greater love for one another?
2.	Paul's prayer for the Colossians in Col. 1:9-14 is very spiritual. Is his prayer reflective of how you pray? Why or why not?	4.	Colossians 1:10 speaks of pleasing God in all of life. How can we do better in fighting the tendency to compartmentalize our Christianity into certain times, places, or activities while leaving the goal of pleasing Christ out of others?
	B. Prayer habits are hard to change. What are some specifics		
	that you can take from this portion of the prayer to apply to your prayers? Write them down and revisit this tomorrow during your prayer time.	5.	Paul, a man steeped in the Old Testament, seems to allude to Old Testament words used during the Exodus, that have a higher new meaning for believers. Reflect on these terms and their meaning now as compared to then: inheritance, deliverance, transferred, redeemed.