

## **COLOSSIANS 4:12 EPAPHRAS PRAYING FOR THE COLOSSIANS!**

**2/4/17 Sat Morn Prayer – Phil Twente**

**“O To Be Like Thee** – Thomas Chisholm; William Kirkpatrick – sung by Steven Anderson

*O to be like Thee! blessed Redeemer; This is my constant longing and prayer;  
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures, Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.*

*Refrain - O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee! Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;  
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness; Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.*

*O to be like Thee! full of compassion, Loving, forgiving, tender and kind,  
Helping the helpless, cheering the fainting, Seeking the wand 'ring sinners to find. (Refrain)*

**Context/Biblical Background** – Epaphras - The Man Who Prayed - We met Epaphras at the beginning of this epistle, for he was the man who founded the church in Colossae. He had been led to Christ through Paul's ministry in Ephesus, and had returned home to share the Good News of salvation. It seems likely that Epaphras also founded the churches in Laodicea and Hierapolis. In our modern terms, Epaphras became a “home missionary.” What motivated Epaphras to share the Gospel? He was “a servant of Christ”. Paul called him “our dear fellow servant . . . a faithful minister of Christ” He was not just a “servant”; he was a “fellow servant.”

**Referring to Epaphras - Col 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring (agonize - to agonize, to struggle) fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.**

- **That you may stand** (*histēmi* - stand (116x), set (11x), establish (5x), stand still (4x), stand by (3x), miscellaneous (17x), vr stand (2x))
- **perfect** (*teleios* - complete (perfect (17x), man (1x), of full age (1x)).
- **and complete** (*plēroō* - to fulfil, to fill, be full – (fulfil (51x), fill (19x), be full (7x), complete (2x), end (2x), miscellaneous (9x)).
- **in all the will of God.** Please note:
- **To stand perfect and complete in the will of God** is what we should earnestly desire both for ourselves and others.
- We **must stand complete in all the will of God**; **In the will of His precepts by a universal obedience**, and **In the will of His providence by a cheerful submission to it**:
- We stand **perfect and complete in both by constancy and perseverance unto the end.**
- The apostle was witness for Epaphras that he had a great zeal for them:

### **“The Will of God” - 22 verses in the Bible**

**Mar 3:35** For whoever does the will of God is My brother and My sister and mother." **Luk 7:30** But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.  
**Act 13:36** "For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption; **Rom 1:10** making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. **Rom 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **Rom 15:32** that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you. **1Co 1:1** Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, **2Co 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia: **2Co 8:5** And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. **Eph 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: **Eph 6:6** not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, **Col 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, **Col 4:12** Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you,

*always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 1Th 4:3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 1Th 5:18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 2Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus, Heb 10:36 For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: 1Pe 2:15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men— 1Pe 3:17 For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1Pe 4:2 that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 1Pe 4:19 Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator. 1Jn 2:17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

### **Summary:**

- ❖ How much we can learn from Epaphras: He prayed constantly - “always”
- ❖ He prayed fervently - “laboring fervently”; “agonizing” - the same word used for our Lord’s praying in the Garden (Luk\_22:44).
- ❖ He prayed personally - “for you”
- ❖ He prayed definitely - “perfect — complete — all — will.”
- ❖ He prayed sacrificially - “great zeal” or “much distress”
- ❖ Do we ever pray this way? Have you, have I, been praying this way lately?

### **Pray Today For:**

Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Ct. Justices: John Roberts, Jr., Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas, Ruth Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and proposed Neil Gorsuch; President & V.P.: Donald & Melania Trump; Mike & Karen Pence. Proposed Cabinet Members: Sec. of State – Rex Tillerson; Energy – Rick Perry; Interior – Ryan Zinke; Defense – James Mattis; Treasury – Steven Mnuchin; Attorney General – Jeff Sessions; HUD – Ben Carson; Commerce – Wilbur Ross; Health & Human Services – Tom Price; Education – Betsy DeVos; Trans. – Elaine Chou; U.N Ambassador – Nikki Haley; Labor – Andrew Puzder; Homeland Security – Gen. John Kelly; EPA – Scott Pruitt; Budget – Mick Mulvaney; SBA – Linda McMahon; Cabinet Level Officials: – Reince Priebus; Nat’l Security Advisor – Michael Flynn; Chief Strategist – Stephen Bannon; White House Council – Donald McGahn; Counselor to Pres. – Kellyanne Conway; Press Sec. Sean Spicer; Agriculture – Sonny Perdue; Vet. Affairs – Donald Shulkin; C.I.A. Director – Mike Pompeo; Amb. to Israel – David Friedman; Nat Econ Council Dir. – Gary Cohn; Nat. Intell. – Dan Coats; US Trade Rep. – Robert Lighthizer; Sr. Adv. to Pres. – Jared Kushner; Homeland Sec. Adv. – Thomas Bossert; Spec. Adv. Reg. Reform – Carl Icahn; Dir. Trade Policy – Peter Navarro; Cyber Security – Rudy Giuliani

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