

Summer 2026

Dear friend of the ministry,

In April, Jessica and I travelled to Türkiye.

One of the sites we visited has yet to be excavated; it is an archaeological tel. The ancient city of Colossae is a large hill covered in long grass, yet it holds years of history dating back to the 12th century BC. We know about Colossae because Paul wrote a letter to the believers living there. Paul never visited Colossae, but the church was planted by a man named Epaphras. Epaphras most likely heard the gospel from Paul during Paul's time in Ephesus. When the gospel transformed Epaphras' life, he took it back to Colossae and shared it not only there but also with the people in the area of Laodicea.

In the book of Philemon (v. 22), Paul expressed hope to visit Colossae. Philemon was a citizen and leader in the church at Colossae. Paul wrote Colossians during his first imprisonment in Rome. While in prison, Epaphras travelled to Rome to update him on what was happening in the church. Many problems in the city of Colossae were affecting the church. There was Jewish legalism, including dietary restrictions and the observance of festivals (2:16), and the belief that circumcision was necessary for right standing with God (2:11). Outside the church, there was pressure to worship angels (2:18), to proclaim visions, and the deceptions of the world (2:8). Another major issue was asceticism, which is essentially punishing the body to achieve holiness through self-neglect (2:21–23). All these issues set alarm bells ringing in Paul's heart, and he sent the letter to the church to share with them that the fullness of God lives in Christ, that believers are complete in Christ, and that they do not need secret knowledge, angel worship, or legalistic rituals to reach God. Jesus is all you need.

Over the past few months, since visiting this ancient site, I have been meditating on Paul's prayer found in Colossians 1:9–14. This prayer has burdened my heart, and I have been praying that this prayer would become my prayer for the church in Canada. Let's look at this prayer—*Feel free to mark it up.*

There are three key principles to take from this prayer today. Trust me, this prayer goes much deeper than these principles, and I encourage you to dig deeper with one of our study resources.



“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work, strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”

// Colossians 1:9-14

Principle #1—Paul prays that the church will be filled with the knowledge of God’s will

Don’t we all want to know this? How many times have you heard people say, “I just want to know God’s will for my life”? I’ve heard it; I’ve asked it!

The word “knowledge” in this verse is *epígnōsis*, which is more than merely knowing or gathering information. This knowledge is one that shapes your life. When you look back at the text, it is the knowledge of His will.

How can we simplify what God’s will is for our lives? There are many discussions on the topic, but for the length of this letter, we’ll define God’s will as Paul does in 1 Thessalonians 4:3: “*For this is the will of God, your sanctification.*” God’s will is that we obey His Word and grow to be more like Jesus. This knowledge Paul refers to can only be attained through the study of God’s Word. At the centre of Paul’s prayer is that the church would ground themselves in the truth and not fall to the deception around them.

Principle #2—Paul prays that the church has spiritual wisdom

What does Paul mean by spiritual wisdom? There is a close connection between knowledge, wisdom, and sanctification (God’s will). The Greek word for wisdom is *sophía*, and it conveys the idea of sound judgment and/or making wise choices and plans. In context, it means that we would make sound choices in how we live.

As we study God’s Word, we better understand how God wants us to live. We learn from biblical examples in the Old and New Testaments, and we learn more about God’s will and, therefore, set plans and make choices that align with what God wants for our lives. Charles Spurgeon explained it this way: “*Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. To know is not to be wise. Many men know a great deal and are all the greater fools for it. There is no fool so great a fool as a knowing fool. But to know how to use knowledge is to have wisdom.*”

Principle #3—Paul prays that the church understands what they have learned

What is the difference between wisdom and understanding? Are they the same? The simple answer is no! The Greek for understanding is *súnesis*, which means to comprehend. I like to describe it like putting a puzzle together. Having all this information is one thing, but knowing how it all comes together is vital. Think of it this way when it comes to studying Scripture. Understanding is asking the *Why* and the *What*, and wisdom is asking the *When* and the *How*. There is one better way that I can explain this before we look at the “so that.”

*Cut along the line and
keep as a bookmark*

Consider this:

Knowledge = Observation—Gathering the facts.

Understanding = Interpretation—Taking the facts and piecing them together.

Wisdom = Application—Using knowledge and understanding of Scripture to change the way we live.

Do you see it? The three principles of *Inductive Bible Study* are found in Paul's prayer. Let me quickly paraphrase for you, "Dear Church at Colossae, I pray that you **observe** the truth, that you **understand** the truth, and rightly **apply** the truth. Why? "So that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (fulfill God's will for your life)."

This is what Precept is all about. This is the burden that our team carries as we serve Canada. We want to see people engaged in God's Word through *Precept's Inductive Bible Study* because we know it changes lives. It has changed our lives.

This summer, our team is preparing for a busy fall with many exciting ministry opportunities. We will be releasing our second devotional called **Rejoice**. We have our *Unshakeable Conference*, *Israel Tour* and several workshops at local churches.

Please be in prayer for the ministry, pray that God continues to provide the finances to write new content, travel to conferences, translate new materials and host local workshops.

If you would like to support Precept through the summer, please respond to this letter or donate online. With a donation of \$50 or more in July and August, you will be among the first to receive our new devotional study. These forty-day devotionals make excellent gifts, and each entry is written using *Precept's Bible Study Method*.

Thank you for your continued support of Precept Canada.

Blessings,

Mark Sheldrake, National Director



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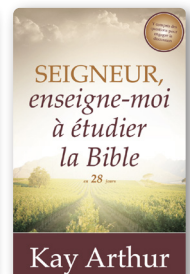
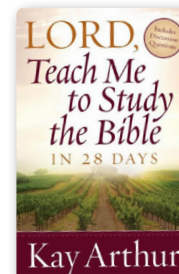
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Pray for Yourself & Your Community

- Pray that this summer continues to be a season of spiritual growth and renewed passion for God's Word.
- Pray for consistency and discipline in seeking the Lord, even during busy summer schedules, vacations, and activities.
- Ask the Lord to strengthen your faith, so that you would remain rooted in truth and in Scripture.
- Pray for opportunities to reflect Christ in everyday conversations, relationships, and interactions within your community. Ask God to use you as lights in a world searching for hope and truth.
- Pray that God would lead you and your community to engage with His Word through Bible study, discipleship, and meaningful conversations about faith.
- Ask God to fill you with joy and gratitude, helping you to recognize His goodness and faithfulness in both ordinary moments and significant life events.
- Pray for peace, safety, and protection over families, churches, camps, conferences, travel, and summer outreach events.

Pray for Precept Ministries Canada

- Thank God for those who have attended the **Unshakeable Conferences** so far this year. Pray that they would continue to be strengthened in the Lord, and remember the truths they have learned from studying Philippians.
- Pray for the Summer Study Challenge, *No Other Gospel*, which started at the beginning of July. Pray that all who are participating would be encouraged by studying Galatians.
- Pray for the **Unlocking the Truth** podcast, and the new series *No Other Gospel*. Ask the Lord to use these teachings to help listeners understand the gospel clearly, walk in freedom through Christ, and grow in spiritual maturity.
- Pray for the continued growth of **Entrust Academy** as new courses and training opportunities are developed. Ask God to equip believers across Canada with confidence and skill in studying and teaching His Word faithfully.
- Pray for Precept's outreach to younger generations through social media, devotionals, podcasts, and Bible study resources. Ask God to raise up young leaders who are passionate about knowing God deeply and living differently.
- Pray for wisdom, unity, and encouragement for the leadership team, staff, volunteers, trainers, and Bible study leaders serving through the ministry.
- Thank the Lord for all the new members that have been added to our E-Team. Pray that the Lord would bless them, and that more faithful ministry partners would be added.
- Pray that every area of the ministry would remain centred on God's truth, guided by His wisdom, and focused on glorifying Christ in all things.

- Ask God to continue opening doors for Precept Ministries Canada to partner with churches and communities across the country so that more people would engage with Scripture and grow in their walk with Christ.
- Pray for the upcoming two-day Bible study, **Know God Deeply, Live Differently**, happening at the Precept building. Pray that many would sign up, and be encouraged as they go through the study, *Lord, I Want to Know You*, and learn about the names of God.
- Pray for Markus & Esther Hauser as they serve Quebec.
 - Pray that more people from the younger generation who are seeking to find answers to their questions would realize that the answers are found in God's Word, and that studying the Word would become their passion.
 - Pray for opportunities throughout the summer months to promote Precept Ministries Canada so that more people would study Scripture inductively, both personally and together.
 - Pray for the summer online study, *How Do You Know God's Your Father?*

Pray for Our Nation, Canada

- Pray for wisdom, integrity, and discernment for Canada's leaders at every level of government. Ask God to guide decision-makers toward truth, justice, compassion, and policies that honour biblical values.
- Pray for unity across our nation during times of division and uncertainty. Ask the Lord to bring peace, understanding, and respectful dialogue within communities, workplaces, churches, and families.
- Pray for Canadians who are struggling financially, emotionally, or spiritually. Ask God to provide hope, stability, employment, housing, and encouragement for those facing difficult circumstances.
- Pray for churches across Canada to remain faithful to God's Word and bold in sharing the gospel with grace, truth, and love. Ask God to strengthen pastors, ministry leaders, missionaries, and volunteers serving throughout our country.
- Pray for the next generation in Canada. Ask God to raise up children, youth, and young adults who desire to know Him personally, stand firm in truth, and influence their generation for Christ.

Pray for the people of Israel that they remember God's Covenant with them and that their eyes are opened to Jesus and the truth of the gospel which brings true peace.

Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen. // *Ephesians 3:20-21*

Do you need prayer—or know someone who does? The team at Precept would love to lift you up in prayer. Please email prayer@preceptministries.ca with your prayer request and our staff will pray for you!