

# Firmly Established and Steadfast

The need for Prayer, Christ, Sacrifice, Revelation, and Application in the life of the church

## “Prayers for the Faithful” (Colossians 1:3-12)

### I. Prior Points of Background

### II. Paul’s Prayer of Thanksgiving (Colossians 1:3-9a)

### III. Paul’s Prayer of Intercession (Colossians 1:9b-12)

## COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

### Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. In verse 1:23, Paul exhorted the Colossians to “*continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard.*” With that verse in mind, discuss what was going on in Colossae that prompted Paul to write this letter (the big picture context).
2. The major theme of chapter 1 verses 3-12 is prayer. In those verses we saw how Paul and his companions constantly prayed for the believers in Colossae, both thanking God for them and interceding for them. As a general practice, how often do you come before God in prayer? More specifically, how often do you pray for our church and for individual members in our church? Share with one another the creative ways you’ve helped make prayer a priority in yours and your families daily lives.
3. As a follow up to the above question, praying effectively for one another means we need to be open with one another about what’s going on in our lives. Take some time and give an update to your group about how things are going in your life. Try to be introspective and vulnerable, sharing your own personal struggles or temptations (e.g. have you been hurt or betrayed? Does pride plague you at times? Are you depressed, anxious, or prone to hiding?). As well, share your prayer requests with one another. After someone shares, someone else in the group take a moment to pray for that request.
4. In verse 1:3 we read how Paul was thanking God for the love the Colossian believers had for one another. In light of that verse, it’s worth our time to consider how well we individually are doing at loving one another in our local church. In what ways have you experienced the love of the saints of DRC? How have you loved other saints of DRC? How can you be better at loving the saints of DRC?