

## Colossians 2:1-15

### International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, we become so concerned at times over the troubles that those who do not truly know you experience that, like Paul, we struggle in our prayers for them. Not knowing how to pray as we ought, we depend on the help of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, we sometimes grieve over the suffering that we hear about, often knowing that all we can do is pray; so, please help us pray more fervently for Your comfort and the good news of Jesus Christ to encourage and save all those in need.

Lord Jesus, when we consider the various divisions among Christians, we pray that increasing numbers of Christians will come together with true faith in You according to the Scriptures and remain united in Your love for one another. Lord, please grant us the riches of assured understanding as we learn more about You and follow Your commands day-by-day. We thank You that You are God's mystery, and You reveal God's mystery to us through prayer and our study of the Bible as the Holy Spirit sheds the light that leads to understanding; so, we do not need to look elsewhere or join some cult or other organization to have the mysteries of eternal life revealed to us—we just need to draw ever closer to You as our Lord and Savior. Please grant us the treasures of wisdom and knowledge that are hidden in You so no one can deceive us with arguments that seem reasonable but are far from the truth. Please help us maintain a firm faith in You as we face the various trials before us for as long as we live. Please help us “live in You,” even though we are just learning what that means, for we want to be rooted and built up in You. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

**Please Note:** I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [\*How God Teaches Us to Pray: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer\*](#), Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.