

Colossians 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Analysis

We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you. Paul's thanksgiving uses *eucharisteomen* (εὐχαριστοῦμεν, "we give thanks"), present tense indicating continuous gratitude, not occasional sentiment. This reflects proper recognition of divine sovereignty—all spiritual blessings originate with God, not human effort or mystical achievement.

"The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" reveals eternal Trinitarian relationship, not merely functional roles. Christ as *Kyrios* (Κύριος, "Lord") applies the Septuagint's divine name to Jesus, affirming deity. The present participle *proseuchomenoi* (προσευχόμενοι, "praying") indicates ongoing intercession, showing that pastoral care transcends physical presence through prayer.

Historical Context

Paul's thanksgiving while imprisoned demonstrates remarkable perspective—concern for doctrinal purity outweighs personal circumstances. Roman imprisonment meant severe hardship: chains, uncertainty, discomfort. Yet Paul's prison epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon) express joy and thanksgiving, modeling contentment rooted in Christ's sufficiency rather than circumstantial comfort.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What percentage of your prayers consists of thanksgiving versus petition, and what does this reveal?
2. For which believers you've never met (missionaries, persecuted Christians) do you intercede regularly?
3. How would your prayer life change if you prioritized spiritual growth over temporal circumstances?

Interlinear Text

Εὐχαριστοῦμεν τῷ Θεῷ καὶ πατρὶ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν
We give thanks to God and the Father Lord of our
G2168 G2316 G2532 G3962 G2962 G2257

Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ πάντοτε περὶ ὑμῶν προσευχόμενοι
Jesus Christ always for you praying
G2424 G5547 G3842 G4012 G5216 G4336

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 1:2 (Prayer): We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers;

Colossians 1:9 (Prayer): For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

2 Timothy 1:3 (Prayer): I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

1 Corinthians 1:4 (References Jesus): I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;

Colossians 1:13 (Parallel theme): Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Ephesians 1:15 (References Jesus): Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,