

February 7, 2021

SUBJECT: PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIAN CHURCH

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:9-12

Introduction:

1. The letters of Paul to the various churches in the NT are each similar in a way, yet very different.
2. For instance, to the Romans, it is justification by faith; in Ephesians, it is the mystical union of Christ and His Church; in Philippians, it is the joy of Christian progress; in this epistle, it is the dignity and sole sufficiency of Jesus Christ as the Mediator and Head of all creation and of the Church.
3. Jesus is not merely the perfect man, nor only the meek sufferer, but the Source of all creation and its Lord.
4. If we are able to grasp with heart and mind the prayer of Paul for ourselves, we shall see what was needed for the Colossians and what we need to know and do in our Christian life.

I. THEY NEEDED TO BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WILL.

**v. 9** *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...*

A. In all wisdom. **James 1:5** *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.*

B. In all spiritual understanding. **1 John 5:20** *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.*

C. Do you have any idea what God's will is for your life. He does have a plan. It begins with receiving Jesus as Savior.

D. We all need a greater insight into God's will, and this is only acquired through the wisdom and understanding communicated by the Holy Spirit to our spirits.

E. The foundation of Christian character and conduct is laid in the knowledge of the will of God. What concerns us to know is not abstract truth, or revelation or speculative thought, but God's will.

II. THEY NEEDED TO WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD. **v. 10** *...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...*

A. To walk after His Spirit, and according to His word, and in His ordinances; to have the conversation as becomes His Gospel, and worthy of that calling where the saints are called by grace to the obtaining of His kingdom and glory.

B. Fully pleasing Him. **Proverbs 16:7** *When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

C. Being fruitful in every good work. **John 15:8** *By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.*

D. Increasing in the knowledge of God. **2 Peter 3:18** *...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*

III. THEY NEEDED TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH ALL MIGHT. **v. 11**

*...strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy...*

A. Literally “strengthened with all power made powerful,” The two words representing “strengthened” and “might” come from “dunamis,”; the one indicates stored-up energy, the other victorious or ruling force.

B. We are strengthened according to His glorious power. **Ephesians 3:16** *...that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man...*

C. For all patience and long suffering. **James 1:2-4** *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.*

D. With joy. That is, to esteem reproach for Christ's sake above the riches and honors of this world; to rejoice when counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.

IV. THEY NEEDED TO GIVE THANKS FOR GOD’S SALVATION. **v. 12** *...giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.*

A. The word “qualified,” means “properly to make sufficient, abundant, much.”

B. The word conveys the idea of having sufficient or enough to accomplish anything.

C. They, along with us, need to give thanks to Jesus because He has made them and us partakers of the inheritance of the saints. **1 Peter 1:3-5** *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Conclusion:

1. What a prayer. What a needed prayer for us today.
2. Reflect on your life at this moment. Has it been a life of pleasing Jesus, or has it been a life of pleasing yourself?
3. Can you honestly say that you are filled with the knowledge of God’s will, that you are walking worthy of the Lord, that you are being strengthened with all might, and that you are truly thankful that He has given you an inheritance?
4. If you are not doing these things, you can. They’re only a prayer of forgiveness away.