

Sunday, July 26, 2009—Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul—A Prayer to be Filled with the Knowledge of His Will—Colossians 1:9-14—Part 4

Introduction

- Over the past three weeks we have been looking at verse 9 where Paul prays that the Colossians might be filled with the knowledge of his will.
- We began by studying what verse 9 meant. Then we looked at the traditional teaching on how to know and do the will of God and discovered the following problems with the common teaching:
 - The word of God is complete.
 - Circumstances have never been a means of divine communication
 - The deterministic viewpoint of Calvinism is not a Scriptural concept.
- If you will find out what God is doing and do that you will be doing the will of God.
- Now that we understood verse 9 and its related issues we can now move on in our study of this prayer. As I said before everything Paul prays for the Colossians steams from what he says in verse 9.

Overview of Prayer

- Since the day Paul heard of their love in the Spirit in verse 8 he did not cease to pray for the Colossians that they might:
 - be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding
 - walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing
 - be fruitful in every good work
 - increasing in the knowledge of God
 - strengthened with all might according to his glorious power unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness
 - giving thanks unto the father

The Worthy Walk

- Notice that the first result of being filled with the knowledge of his will in verse 9 is that we should walk worthy in verse 10.

- Walk--to make one's way, progress; to make due use of opportunities Hebrew for, to live, to regulate one's life, to conduct one's self, to pass one's life
- Paul uses the term walk all throughout his epistles to talk about the proper life and conduct of believers as they progress and mature in the Christian life.
 - Romans 6:4—walk in newness of life
 - Romans 8:1, 4—walk not after the flesh
 - II Corinthians 4:2—not walking in craftiness
 - Galatians 5:16—walk in the Spirit
 - Ephesians 4:1—walk worthy of the vocation
 - Ephesians 4:17—walk not as other Gentiles walk
 - Ephesians 5:2, 8, 15
 - Colossians 2:6, 3:7, 4:5
- We are to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.
- To walk worthy means to walk in such a way that is becoming of the new life we have received in Jesus Christ.
 - Romans 16:2
 - Philippians 1:27
 - I Thessalonians 5:17
- Something that is “becoming” is suitable, proper, belonging to the character, or adapted to circumstances. You don’t wear jeans and a t-shirt to a formal black tie dinner party it is not worthy attire it is unbecoming the circumstances.
- Notice that in the progression of the Paul’s thoughts through the verses that the worthy walk stems from the knowledge of God’s will that the believer has already been filled with in verse 9.
- It pleases the Lord when we walk worthy of the high calling and vocation with which we have been called.

Being Fruitful in Every Good Work

- The second result of being filled with the knowledge of His will demonstrates itself in being fruitful in every good work.
- The word fruitful simply means to bear fruit.
 - Colossians 1:6—bringeth forth fruit
- The fruit that we are to bring forth is in the realm of good works.

- Romans 7:4—good has set us free from the law so that we might be able to bear fruit unto God.
- Galatians 5:22-23—outlines the fruit that is produced in the life of a believer who walking in the Spirit. Or allowing the Holy Spirit to live Christ’s life through them.
- Much confusion exists within Christendom over the issue of good works. Many teach some combination of the following three ideas, believers have to:
 - Work to get saved
 - Work to stay saved
 - Work to prove you are saved
- Ephesians 2:8-9—clearly teaches that works cannot get anyone saved. If they could salvation would not be a gift of grace bestowed to undeserving sinners.
- Ephesians 2:10—the only way we ever produce any good works is when it is Christ’s life working in us. We can never take credit in our own strength and ability.
- Through our knowledge of what God is doing believers ought to be quick to produce the fruit of good works by the power of Christ working in them.

Increasing in the Knowledge of God

- The third result of being filled with the knowledge of His will is that we should be always increasing in the knowledge of God.
- The word “increasing” simply means to grow.
 - Ephesians 2:21—groweth unto an holy temple
 - Ephesians 4:15—may grow up into him
- We have already seen throughout this study on the Powerful Prayers of Paul who often Paul mentions knowledge in the prayers on behalf of the saints.
 - Ephesians 1:17
 - Philippians 1:9
 - Colossians 1:9
- I Timothy 2:4—we know that it is God’s will for all men to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- Colossians 2:2

- Colossians 3:10—the new man functions on the basis of knowledge. Without an ever increasing knowledge in the things of God we render the new man of none effect.
- II Timothy 3:7—there are those people who are continually studying but are never able to come the knowledge of the truth because they don't approach God's word in God way.
- II Timothy 2:25—people like this need to be instructed in meekness so that they might acknowledge the truth.
- Philemon 6—everything good thing which is in us comes through Jesus Christ.
- The only way to increase in the knowledge of God is spend time with God in his Word daily.

A Simple Plan for Personal Bible Study

- Always keeping in mind the three basic rules of Bible study:
 - Literal Reading
 - Scripture with Scripture
 - Dispensation Method—who wrote it, when was it written, to whom was it written
- Begin with the book of Romans and read the same chapter everyday for two weeks.
- As you read look up and write down the meanings of any words you don't understand in a notebook.
- Write down what you think the main idea of the chapter is.
- Memorize the key verse for each chapter.
- If you will repeat this simple method for every chapter in a book and then begin doing it for multiple books you will begin building your own personal knowledge base in God's word.
- Do your own homework and see how much you grow. Let your inner man feed on God's word and change you from the inside out.