

# **Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul**

Colossians 1:9-14

A Prayer to be Filled With the  
Knowledge of His Will

Part 4

# 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

- 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 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

# Being Fruitful in Every Good Work

- The word fruitful simply means to bear fruit.
  - Colossians 1:6—bringeth forth fruit
- Romans 7:4
- Galatians 5:22
- 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

# Being Fruitful in Every Good Work

- 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.

# 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

# Increasing in the Knowledge of God

- 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
- II Timothy 3:7
- II Timothy 2:25
- Philemon 6
- 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.