

Sunday, February 16, 2020—Colossians 1:10 Fruitful in Every Good Work

Introduction

- Last week we continued looking at the Holy Spirit’s inspired prayer for the Colossians by considering the first half of verse 10. In doing so, we talked a lot about what it means “to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.”
- The worthy walk of a mid-Acts Pauline Grace Believer is the most “pleasing” and gratifying life that one can chose to live because its aim and focus is on serving others not self.

Colossians 1:10

- **That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;**
- **Being fruitful in every good work**—the second result of being “filled with the knowledge of His will” in verse 9 demonstrates itself in “being fruitful in every good work” in verse 10. Put another way, the worthy walk is going to manifest itself by “being fruitful in every good work.”
- The verb translated “being fruitful” is in the present tense and the active voice. Like we saw last week in the first half of the verse, this means that Paul wants the Colossians to chose to walk in a fruitful manner. Put another way, “being fruitful in every good work” is not going to be automatic rather it’s a choice that the Colossians are going to have to make.
- The word fruitful simply means to bear fruit.
 - Colossians 1:6—“bringeth forth fruit”
- Matthew 7:15-20—causes some grace believers to get a bit uneasy when it comes to the topic of fruit bearing. In the context, this verse is talking about how the little flock in Israel will be able to identify false prophets in their midst.
- Paul, the apostle to the gentiles has a lot to say in his epistles about bearing “fruit.”
 - Romans 6:21-22— when you were “servants of sin” (verse 20) “what fruit had ye in those things” i.e., the things of sin? The “fruit” or “end” of all those things is death. “But now” because we have been made free from sin, we are capable of bring forth fruit unto holiness. We now, in Christ, have to capacity to bring about a different outcome and manifesting holiness by the life of Christ being made manifest in our mortal flesh.
 - Romans 7:4—not only is the believer’s old man dead (Rom. 6:6) by identification with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection but we “are become dead to the law by the

body of Christ.” Therefore, fruit in the believer’s life and walk is not going to be produced by keeping the law.

- Romans 7:5—is a key verse in Chapter 7. Believers are no longer in the flesh. Our “old man” is crucified and dead (Rom. 6:6) and we have made new creatures in Christ where all things have been made new (II Cor. 5:17) i.e., we are not “in the flesh” anymore.
 - Romans 6:19—before salvation when we were in the flesh, we “yielded” our “members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity.” It was this yielding to the flesh and course of this world that established brain pathways that led to habits, addictions, and coping mechanisms that believers still struggle with.
- Romans 7:6—“but now we are delivered from the law” is a statement about believers in the present. Believers are delivered from the law thereby allow us to serve God in “newness of spirit” (Rom. 6:4).
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Philippians 1:11
- Colossians 1:10—the fruit that we are to bring forth is in the realm of good works.
- 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.
 - Philippians 1:6
 - Philippians 2:19
- Ephesians 2:10—notice how the end of the verse connects the issue of “good works” with our “walk.” This is the same thing we observes in Colossians 1:10.
 - Ephesians 4:1, 17

- Ephesians 5:2, 8, 15
- 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.
- **and 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”
- As we have already seen, “knowledge” is a recurring theme in the Holy Spirit’s prayers for the body of Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:17
 - Ephesians 3:19
 - Philippians 1:9
 - Philippians 3:10
- Colossians 1:10—the Holy Spirit wants us to really know the Father. His prayer on our behalf is that we would truly know the heart of God toward us.
 - Ephesians 2:4-7
- Colossians 1:10—we might as well start getting to know God now. Not for knowledge sake but for your walk’s sake. Knowledge puffeth up by charity edifieth. Get to know him now for the sake of your family and the saints in the assembly.