

Sunday, February 23, 2020—Colossians 1:11 Strengthened with All Might

Introduction

- Last week we concluded our look at Colossians 1:10. Thus far we have observed that following regarding the Holy Spirit’s prayer for the body of Christ.
- Since hearing about the faith of the Colossians (Col. 1:4) Paul and Timothy had not ceased to pray for pray for them. Their “desire” i.e., the “cause” for which Paul and Timothy were praying for the Colossians was that they “might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Col. 1:9).
 - “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing” (Col. 1:10)
 - “Being fruitful in every good work” (Col. 1:10)
 - “Increasing in the knowledge of God.” (Col. 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. 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.
- This morning we want to consider some further outcomes and/or results of “being filled with the knowledge of his will” by looking at somethings in verse 11.

Colossians 1:11

- **Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;**
- **Strengthened with all might**—the verb rendered “strengthened” in English is in the present tense and the passive voice. Therefore, Paul’s desire is the Colossians be “strengthened” in the present. This strengthening is not something that the Colossians can do to themselves rather it is passive in that it is something that is done to them. This is the only time the Greek verb *dynamo* occurs in the New Testament.
- **Strengthened**—simply means to be made strong. What are we to made strong with? All might.
- **Might**—simply means power or strength.
 - Romans 1:16—“power of God unto salvation”

- II Corinthians 1:8—above strength
- Colossians 1:29—“worketh in me mightily”
- Colossians 1:11—Paul’s desire is that the Colossians be “strengthened with all might” in the present.
- **according to his glorious power**—this is not going to be accomplished in our own power but “according to” or in line with his “glorious power.” This is part of us “increasing in the knowledge of God” from verse 10. Paul’s desire is that we be “strengthened with all might” according to the mighty power of God.
- Paul’s prayer for the Colossians is in complete harmony with his prayers for the Ephesians.
 - Ephesians 1:16-20—the same power that God used to raise Christ from the dead is expressed toward “us-ward who believe.”
 - Ephesians 1:21—by virtue of this power Christ has been magnified, glorified, and given a position of authority far above every principality, power, might, and dominion.
 - Ephesians 3:16—this strengthening with “might” can only occur by the Holy Spirit of God that indwells us and it occurs in our inner man.
 - Ephesians 3:20—“power” is the same word as might in verse 16.
- In Ephesians 1 we learn that the same power that raised Christ from the dead is demonstrated toward “us-ward who believe.” In Ephesians 3 we learn that this strengthening with “might” comes by the Holy Spirit to empower our “inner man.”
- Colossians 1:11—our ability to “walk worthy” and be “fruitful in every good work” in verse 10 is not a matter of our strength, power, and might to do so. Rather, it is God’s strength, and might that produce within us the ability to “walk worthy” and be “fruitful in every good work.” We have to make the choice to do things God’s way.
- **unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness**—God’s strength and might is not going to give you the power to heal people, raise the dead, or speak prosperity over your finances. Rather its “unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.”
- These are the exact qualities that we need to live and thrive in the current dispensation.
 - **Patience**—steadfastness, constancy, endurance
 - **Longsuffering**—bearing injuries or provocation for a long time; patient; not easily provoked.

- Galatians 5:22-23—Paul’s statement in Colossians 1:11 is in line with the “fruit of the Spirit.”
- II Corinthians 12:7-10—God’s answer to Paul’s prayer for physical healing was not yes let me take care of that for you Paul so that you no longer need to suffer. Rather it was your physical circumstances are a chance for my life and power to be made manifest in your mortal flesh.
- Romans 8:21-25—this why Paul tells us that we need to wait patiently for the redemption of our bodies.
- Romans 8:35-37—none of these physical circumstances are indicative of God’s favor or disfavor. Rather God through Jesus Christ who loved us has made it possible for us to rise above the circumstances of our lives as conquerors.
- I Corinthians 10:13—everything that face has been faced by someone before us and will be faced by someone after us.
- Romans 5:1:4—this is why Paul could glory in tribulation, because he knew it was for a greater purpose.
- II Corinthians 4:17-18—believers are quite often to focused on the temporal and not the eternal.
- Philippians 4:11—Paul had to learn how to be content regardless of the circumstances he found himself in. This was not something that came naturally for Paul.
- Philippians 4:12—Paul learned how to live with little as well as plenty.
 - I Timothy 6:8—“And having food and raiment let us therewith be content.”
- Colossians 1:11—as we are “strengthened” by God “unto all patience and longsuffering” it is with the quality of “joyfulness.”
- We can rejoice knowing that God has equipped us to live for his honor and glory during the present dispensation of grace. Everyday we wake up is God offering the lost world around us the opportunity to be saved. Our joy is not found in our circumstances rather it is found in Christ. Christ is our joy.
- We can joyfully suffer long with patience because we know that our light afflictions are working for a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.