

Theme: As Christians grow in their knowledge of God and His will, their lives are transformed so that they are pleasing to God.

## I. Intro – How Can We Help?

- A. Trip to visit Tim, Becky, Josh, and Owen
- B. Really glad to be able to help out - and have fun!
- C. What if we could not be there? How can we help?
- D. Trouble in Colossae - but Paul can't go!
- E. He prays - and gives them instruction
- F. What does Paul think they really need?

## II. Link Between Paul's Thanksgiving & Prayer

- A. I noted this link last week
  - 1. Paul's thanksgiving is always directed to God
  - 2. Paul's thanksgiving always leads to prayer
- B. Clear links between 1:3-8 and 1:9-14
  - 1. Table with common vocabulary and themes
  - 2. What we saw last week carries forward

## III. Paul's Prayer for the Colossians

- A. The request - praying and asking
  - 1. We have not stopped - consistent prayer
  - 2. Praying and asking - both describe same thing
- B. The request - to be filled with knowledge of His will

- 1. Paul wants them to be filled - not just a dab!
  - a. Paul will use this concept a lot in the letter
  - b. Fulness likely key teaching for Gnostics in Colossae
- 2. Knowledge, wisdom, understanding
  - a. These root words appear 14x in Colossians!
  - b. Philippians 1:9-11; 2 Peter 3:17-18; Hosea 4:6
  - c. Knowledge, wisdom, etc. are important!
  - d. Beware of anti-intellectualism - it is **ungodly**
- 3. Knowledge of His will - this is true knowledge (v9)
  - a. Not just speculative thoughts - Him & His will
  - b. Proverbs 9:10; Psalm 111:10; Deuter. 4:5-6
  - c. Jesus is the True Wise One - Isaiah 11:1-3
- 4. Prayer - know God, His Word and how to apply it

## IV. The Purpose/Result of Paul's Prayer

- A. Purpose/result - in order that (vv10-12; same sentence as v9)
  - 1. vv9-11 all one sentence in Greek
  - 2. in order that - purpose or result (purpose most likely)
  - 3. This shows the goal of knowing God and His will
- B. The reason - a life worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him
  - 1. Two ideas; one reality - life worthy/pleasing to Lord
  - 2. Literally 'walk' worthy - walking the path of wisdom

3. Walk as Jesus walked - obeying God's revealed will

C. Four characteristics of a worthy, pleasing life (vv10-12 participles)

1. Bearing fruit - in every good work (v10)

- a. Faith producing works; know God - act like Him!
- b. You serve God by serving others; applying the Word

2. Growing - in the knowledge of God

- a. The same as the prayer; continual growth spiral
- b. But we only grow in knowledge as we obey

3. Being strengthened

- a. Being strengthened - by His power; we need this!
- b. Being strengthened - for endurance and patience
- c. We will face opposition - need endurance & patience

4. Giving thanks - joyfully to the Father

- a. I take "joyfully" with giving thanks like NIV; against ESV
- b. Back to thanksgiving!
- c. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
- d. A worthy, pleasing life is full of joyful, prayerful, thanksgiving!

## **V. A Life of Thanksgiving for Christ's Redemptive Work**

A. Paul returns to Christ's redemptive work (vv12-14)

1. Note the emphasis on Christ's salvific work
2. We have been rescued & saved!
3. We have been taken from darkness into light!

4. We are forgiven and have a great inheritance!

B. The more we see and know this - we are changed!

1. We become grateful to God for salvation
2. We begin to live to please Him

## **VI. Applying the Word**

A. Are we growing in the knowledge of God?

1. This is essential for believers!
2. If we do not grow in knowledge - we do not grow!
3. Are we faithful in the Word?
4. Are we faithful on Sunday? In small group?
5. Without these things we will not grow!

B. Are we living worthy of the Lord?

1. Are our lives being changed to be like Jesus?
2. Are we bearing fruit of good works?
3. Are we enduring in obedience?
4. Are we joyful, thankful people?
5. If we are weak in one area - ask God to grow there!

C. Communion - strengthened by the gospel

### **A Fruitful Knowledge In Christ**

Colossians 1:9-14  
March 4, 2012  
Communion  
1 Peter 1:2

Thanksgiving (vv3-8)	Prayer (vv9-14)
Since the day you heard (v6)	Since the day we heard (v9)
thank (v3)	giving thanks (v12)
always (v3)	not stopped (v9)
when we pray for you (v3)	praying for you (v9)
understood (lit. known) (v6)	knowledge (v9, v10)
bearing fruit and increasing (v6)	bearing fruit ... and increasing (v10)

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in **knowledge and depth of insight**, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 **filled** with the **fruit** of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God. Philippians 1:9–11

Therefore, dear friends, since you already know this, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of lawless men and fall from your secure position. 18 **But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. 2 Peter 3:17–18

**my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge**. “Because you have **rejected knowledge**, I also **reject you** as my priests; because you have **ignored the law** of your God, I also will **ignore your children**.” Hosea 4:6

The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of **wisdom**, and **knowledge of the Holy One** is **understanding**. Proverbs 9:10

The **fear of the LORD** is the beginning of **wisdom**; all who follow **his precepts** have good **understanding**. To him belongs eternal praise. Psalms 111:10

5 See, I have taught you **decrees** and **laws** as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you may **follow them** in the land you are entering to take possession of it. 6 **Observe them** carefully, for **this will show your wisdom and understanding** to the nations, who will hear about all these decrees and say, “Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.” Deuteronomy 4:5–6

A shoot will come up from **the stump of Jesse**; from his roots a Branch will **bear fruit**. 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of **wisdom** and of **understanding**, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear of the LORD** — 3 and he will delight in **the fear of the LORD**. Isaiah 11:1–3

16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:9–14

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.  
2 Peter 1:2