

1st Over All

Colossians

Week 3 - Prayer for Worthy Walk

Colossians 1:9-14

Purpose: Christians will be encouraged to worship gratefully through living in a way that brings God joy and glory. We will pray for each other to walk in a way that is worthy of God and brings him joy and glory.

Call to Worship

Stand and Read

Colossians 1:9-14 ESV

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; **11** being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Pray

Father, thank you for commanding us and empowering us to pray and bring our needs and desires to You. We pray for your work in us to continue to grow us in knowing you, pleasing you and doing your will. We want to glorify you through faith and good works. Help us to worship you this morning in a way that brings you joy and glory. You are our Father and we are grateful to be your people! Amen!

Sermon

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Opening Idea

Priscilla and Aquilla

A husband and wife are forced from their home and exiled out of their home city. They travel and land in a foreign city that is about 720 miles from their former home. They settle,

establish a home, they find work, and begin helping the people around them. They support missionaries, host church in their home, share resources (money), and disciple others about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Priscilla and Aquilla faced great struggles and loss, yet God uses them in His work to grow His kingdom, equip others, and participate in good works. God uses them to show others what “walking in a worthy manner” looks like. Praise God for His work in them to endure hardship, share their gifts and skills with others, encourage and teach others, and to bring God joy through the life He gave them. They walk in a way that is worthy of God!

Let’s continue studying the letter from Paul to the saints in Colossae and let’s see what it looks like for a person to put Christ First Over All!

Colossians 1:9-14 ESV

(SLIDE 2) **9** And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

(SLIDE 3) **11** being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 4)

Notes on Colossians 1:9-14

Powerful Petition: Knowledge, Wisdom, and Understanding (v. 9)

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

Paul writes to the Colossian saints that the news of the good things God was doing in them has been given to him and has caused Paul to pray. Paul doesn’t say a simple prayer for the Colossians, but he prays continually for them. Paul then writes that there are things he is asking God to do. Paul petitions God to do powerful things in the Colossian saints that will be of great benefit to them in living the life they’ve been called to live.

The first powerful petition is for the saints to be filled. Paul prays for God to fill them with three things. Paul prays for knowledge of God’s will, for all spiritual wisdom, and for understanding. Knowledge is good, but to know God’s will is great. To know God’s will is the beginning of doing God’s will. Doing God’s will is an act of worship. Knowing God’s will is possible by faith and shows the fruit of faith. Wisdom is valuable, but spiritual wisdom is precious. Wisdom is

knowledge put into action. Spiritual wisdom is dependent upon the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives wisdom to those who believe, and the Holy Spirit causes the believer to act and put knowledge into action. Understanding is knowing the why to actions and situations. Whether the situation is perceived as beneficial or painful, acquiring or losing, or growth or loss, the believer who has knowledge of God's will and has put that knowledge into action will understand what is happening around them. Realizing that all things happen for the glory of God is a deep level of understanding that comes from faith and belief.

Powerful Petition: A Worthy Walk, Pleasing to God, Bearing Fruit in Growth (v. 10)

10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Paul, having prayed for God to fill the Colossians with knowledge of God's will, spiritual wisdom, and understanding, gives a reason for praying for God to give these things. Paul's reason is that the Colossian saints would be able to please God by living in a way that is honoring to God and that glorifies Him. Paul makes one connection in this statement between praying for God's work and the saint living in response to God's work. Paul also links walking in a worthy manner to bearing fruit. One of the aspects of fruit of the believers is work that is given by God, empowered by God through gifting, and glorifies God. Paul also writes that glorifying God through growing knowledge and understanding that leads to good works impacts the saint. The more fruit that is produced in us and through us the more we know about God. It is a marvelous aspect of the Christian life that we have the privilege of knowing God, knowing what His will is, doing what pleases God, and knowing God with increasing intimacy and understanding. God knows His people perfectly and He allows us to know Him more and more.

Powerful Petition: Strength, Endurance, Patience, and Joy (v. 11)

11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

Paul continues writing that there is an ongoing and increasing work taking place in the saint. God equips, God reveals Himself, God helps His people know Him and His desires, God produces fruit through the saint, and the saint is able to do good works, glorify God, and know Him more. This isn't the end of what God is doing in the saint. The ongoing benefit for the saint is that God produces strength, endurance, and patience in them that protect the saint from crashing out and experiencing defeat. Rather than experiencing defeat, the saint experiences joy. God does not shelter the saint from hard times, but as the saint knows God, glorifies Him, and works in a way that pleases God, God rewards His children with joy that comes from Him. God's children often miss out on the joy of the Godly life because they are striving to overcome their struggles in their own power. There is no joy for those who strive by their own power and for their own glory. For those who know God, do His will, bring Him glory, and grow in their intimate knowledge of

God, they find Joy. There is joy for the saint now as they endure and there is joy to come, eternally, for the saint who endures. It is joy now and for eternity!

Powerful Petition: Giving Thanks (v. 12)

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Paul now commands the Colossian saints to give thanks to God. It is He who chose them to receive faith and caused them to repent, believe, be equipped, know God deeply, do good and glorifying works, and endure with joy. This wonderful life is the gift of God through Jesus Christ. Faith in Jesus Christ has saved the saint and qualifies them for the life of peace and joy. This life, both now and to come, is an inheritance for God's people – saints. They receive the inheritance of living in the light – the eternal and unobstructed presence of God!

Praise God for His Great Salvific Work (v. 13-14)

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

To understand how precious of an inheritance it is to live in the eternal light of God's presence, Paul reminds the saints that they used to live in darkness. Darkness is used to describe ignorance of God, facing wrath due to sin, and rebelliously at odds with God. But God conducted a transaction where His saints were taken from the darkness and brought into the light. The light represents a kingdom of people who belong to God and live willingly under the kingship of Jesus Christ, the beloved Son. Through Jesus Christ, all saints are redeemed, forgiven of their sins, and are made sons and daughters. Paul commands the Colossian saints to praise God for His great salvific work, of which the saints have hope, peace, endurance, gifting, and joy. God's work is good and God's people thankfully worship their kind, gracious, and merciful Father!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Pray for Each Other (SLIDE 5)

Spiritual Wisdom (SLIDE 6)

Knowing God

Living According to Knowledge

- Wisdom is Knowledge Lived Out

God Pleasing (SLIDE 7)

Knowing what pleases the Father

Doing what pleases the Father

Enduring Joy (SLIDE 8)

Relying upon the Joy that comes from Faith, Knowledge, and Working

Enjoying the joy that God rewards those who live by the fruit of faith

Grateful to God (SLIDE 9)

Becoming a person who is thankful to God in any and all situations knowing that God is present, helping, giving strength, working in and through them every day!

Deeply thankful that He chose you to live with Him eternally as His son or daughter!

God Makes us Worthy to Walk in His Ways (SLIDE 10)

His Choice

His Work

His Child

His Glory

Read

Ephesians 5:8-10 ESV (SLIDE 11)

8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light **9** (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), **10** and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 12)