

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.