

1  **Praying Like Paul**

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2

Prayer is God's appointed means for appropriating the blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus. D.A. Carson

4 

Last week...

- Paul prayed for people he never met
- Paul prayed unceasingly - a lot for certain priorities
- Paul's praying was always linked to an attitude of thankfulness

5 

Content - Colossians 1:9-14

- One petition...
- Petition's purpose...
- Description of the way God's answer to the petition works out in daily life.

6 

The Petition

- *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.*

7 

What is meant by God's will?

- How do we currently use the expression of "God's will?"
- Do we have to "discover" God's will?

8 

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! Psalm 143:10, ESV

9 

Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2, ESV

10 

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is...

Ephesians 5:15-17, ESV

11 

For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality... 1 Thess. 4:3, ESV

12 ☰

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thess. 5:16-18, ESV

13 ☰

It is folly to pretend to seek God's will for your life, in terms of a marriage partner or some form of Christian vocation, when there is no deep desire to pursue God's will as he has already kindly revealed it.

D.A.Carson

14 ☰

[God's will] is not an inner impression or feeling, but a deep and thorough knowledge of the will of God that is finally and completely revealed in the Word of God

(3:16; Eph 5:17; 1Thess 4:3; 5:18; 1Ti 2:4; 1Pe 2:13, 15; 4:19) John MacArthur

15 ☰

What is meant by "all spiritual wisdom and understanding?"

16 ☰

- **Wisdom (*Sophia*) - refers to the ability to collect and concisely organize principles from Scripture.**
- **Understanding (*Sunesis*) - refers to the application of those principles to everyday life.** **MacArthur, Commentary- Colossians p.30**

17 ☰

Pluralism and Syncretism

1

- **Religious pluralism is essentially based on a non-literal view of one's religious traditions, hence allowing for respect to be engendered between different traditions on core principles rather than more marginal issues. - Wiki**

2

- **Hmmmm.....**
Who gets to say what is marginal and what isn't?

18 ☰

- **The religious pluralist would say no religion can claim to teach the only or absolute truth, arguing that religion is not literally the word of God, but rather is mankind's attempt to describe the word of God.**
- **The dominant form of religious pluralism today would claim this all religions are equally valid and equally true.**

19 ☰

Paul's Purpose for the Petition

... 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.

20 ☰

Living in a "No Shame" Culture

21 ☰

"Moynihan's powerful point is that with the moral deregulation of the 1960s, we

have had an explosion of deviancy in family life, criminal behavior and public displays of psychosis. And we have dealt with it in the only way possible: by redefining deviancy down so as to explain away and make "normal? what a more civilized, ordered and healthy society long ago would have labeled-and long ago did label deviant?
Christian Research Institute letter

22  **Praying to Protect the Family Name**

23 

In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
Colossians 2:11-14, ESV

24  **How the Petition Works out in Daily Life**

25  **Christians Bear Fruit**

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
Eph. 2:8-10, ESV

26  **Christians Grow in the Knowledge of God**

To learn something of God's will and use such knowledge to live a life worthy of the Master and utterly pleasing to Him, is to engage in the business of obedience. But as you get busy in the business of obedience, you get to know God better. That in turn impels you to more obedience, which in turn opens up new vistas in the knowledge of God and His will.
D.A. Carson

27 

There is no question that obedience to God's commands prompted by fear or merit-seeking is not true obedience. **The only obedience acceptable to God is constrained and impelled by love**, because "love is the fulfillment of the law" (Romans 13:10). God's law as revealed in His Word prescribes our duty, but love provides the correct motive for obedience. **We obey God's law, not to be loved, but because we are loved in Christ.**
Jerry Bridges, *Transforming Grace*

28  **Christians are Strengthened**

1

• **May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy**
Colossians 1:11

2

• **... that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being.**
Ephesians 3:16

29 

Spiritual power is a mark of every Christian who submits to God's Word and Spirit. It is not reserved for some special class of Christian, but for all those who discipline their minds and spirits to study the Word, understand it, and live by it. Although the outer, physical person becomes weaker with age (cf. 2Co 4:16), the inner, spiritual person should grow stronger through the Holy Spirit, who will energize, revitalize, and empower the obedient, committed Christian (cf. Ac 1:8;

30  **Christians Joyfully Give Thanks**

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.

31 

But he perceived that our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion, our death; and he sent us a Savior.
D.A. Carson

32 

What Paul is saying is that to live a life worthy of Jesus Christ is to overflow with joyful thanksgiving in the light of the salvation we have received at his hand.
D.A. Carson