

Colossians 1:1-14

In the first 14 verses of Colossians we find only 4 periods.

1. One after verse 2
2. One after verse 8
3. One after verse 12
4. One after verse 14

We have given each of the 4 sentences a title.

I. Greetings v1-2

II. Thanksgiving v3-8

Now, this morning we will look at the final 6 verses...2 sentences.

III. Prayers v9-12

What are they praying for...that the saints and faithful brethren at Colossae would be filled with the knowledge of God's will....

This is likely the number 1 question asked by followers of Christ.

1. What is God's will? I just want to know God's will.
2. We treat it like it is a mystery that we must search high and low to find...as if God has hidden it from us.
3. Here Paul says that "we" (he and Timothy and maybe Epaphras and the other workers) have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be FILLED with the knowledge of HIS WILL in ALL SPIRITUAL WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING.

God wants us to know His will...no! He wants us to be FILLED with the knowledge of His will.

1. Now, if He wants that for us, then would He hide it from us? Would he make it like an obstacle course, a mystery, a complicated system?
2. No. It must be clear and easily accessible.
 - a. The problem might be that it isn't what we want to hear.
 - b. The problem might be that we are over-complicating things.
3. He wants us to not just know His will, but to be filled with the knowing of His will.

A simple formula

1. Be faithful in prayer and in reading the Scriptures
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:13 *But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.*
 - b. Go to Scripture with the help of the Spirit until You hear from God.
 - c. There is His will. Just like that. That is how sanctification happens!
 - d. Not in studying the Puritans (they might edify) but the Scriptures sanctify.
 - e. Romans 12:2 *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.*

