

**“A Prayer To Please God”**  
**Colossians 1:9-11**

**Introduction:**

1. I'd Like To Begin This Morning:
  - By Asking You A Question:
    - **Why Do You Pray?**
    - Or - Why **Should** You Pray?
  - Of Course - One Perfectly Acceptable Answer:
    - Is Because God Tells Us:
      - To Pray!
        - In Fact - In 1 Thessalonians 5:17 - We Are Even Told To “Pray Without Ceasing!”
    - We Pray:
      - In Obedience To The Lord!
2. But - **Why Else** Do We Pray As Christians?
  - Every Sunday Night & Wednesday:
    - We Have The Opportunity:
      - To Publically Share With Each Other:
        - Burdens That Are On Our Hearts!
        - Burdens That Are Meant To Be Carried Together To The Lord:
          - In Prayer!
    - But - **Why** Do We Pray For Those Burdens & Needs?
      - **We Pray - Because We Believe!**
      - We Pray - Because We Believe In:
        - What Philippians 4:19 Tells Us - “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus!”
      - We Pray - Because We Believe In:
        - What Jesus Said In Mark 7:7-8 - “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: / For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened!”
      - We Pray - Because We Believe That:
        - God Will Hear & Answer The Prayers:
          - Of The **Deepest** Burdens & Needs Of His People!
  - 3. But Many Of The Needs:
    - That We Pray For - Which You Can Find Week After Week:
      - On Our Prayer Guides:
        - Are Mostly Physical & Practical!
      - And Even Though These Needs **Are** Important:
        - Many Times - Perhaps Even **Most** Of The Time - They Really Only Touch The Surface Of Some Of The:
          - Deeper Needs Of The Heart!
    - Well - This Morning:
      - As We Return To Our Study:
        - Of Paul's Letter To The Colossian Church:
          - We Are Going To Begin Looking At **His Prayer** For Them!
    - And - As We Do:
      - I Think We Will Learn:
        - What Some Of Those Deeper Burdens & Needs Are!
  - 4. Because - In 1:9-14 - Paul Tells The Colossian Christians:
    - Some Of The Specific Burdens:
      - He & Timothy & Epaphras:
        - Had For Them & Prayed For Them!
    - 1:9-14 - “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; / 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; / 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; / 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; / 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: / 14

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins!”

- The Apostle Paul - Along With Timothy & Epaphras:
- Prayed In This Way:
  - Because These Things Are What Those Christians:
  - In Colosse Needed Most!

5. And So - This Morning:

- We Are Going To Focus Our Attention:
  - On Just The First 3 Verses Of This Prayer - 1:9-11
    - To Look At What Should, Perhaps, Be:
      - **Our** Greatest Burdens & **Our** Greatest Prayers:
        - For Each Other, And Even For Ourselves, As Christians!
- And: **We Pray - Because We Believe!**
  - And Because **We Know** That God Himself:
    - Can & Will “Supply” All Of These Needs:
      - “According To His Riches In Glory By Christ Jesus!”

\* The First Thing We Find Paul Praying For Is:

**1. A Greater Fulness!**

- Which We Read About In:
  - 1:9 - “For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding!”
    - Here - Paul Prayed For:
      - A Greater Fulness:
        - Of The Knowledge Of God’s Own Will!
  - And Isn’t This:
    - One Of Our Greatest & Deepest Needs:
      - As Christians?
        - To Know The Will Of God?
    - If It Is - Then What Should We Do:
      - With This Need?
        - We Should Pray - Even As Paul Prayed!
  - We Should Pray For:
- A Deeper Knowledge:
  - Of God’s Will!
    - This Is What That Word “Knowledge” Means!
  - It Is Not Just Knowing:
    - **About** Something!
      - With A Shallow Or Even A Temporary Knowledge!
        - **IE:** Like When You Try To Cram For A Test As A Student!
  - Instead - Paul Is Describing:
    - A Clear & Complete Knowledge:
      - Of God’s Will - That Goes Deep & Will Last!
    - With A True “Grasp” On The Will Of God:
      - Your Will Align Itself More & More With God’s Own Will!
  - This Ought To Be Your Desire:
    - As A Christian!
      - Especially When We Remember That It Is Also:
  - A Dependent Knowledge!
    - That Is - This Kind Of “Knowledge Of God’s Will” Is Not Something That Comes Naturally & Automatically!
      - It Is Something That Can Only Come From The Lord!
        - And This Is Why Paul Prayed To God To “Fill” Them With This Knowledge!
    - Because Only God Can Supply:
      - This Need To The Point Of “Fulness” And Completion!
        - And Even As We Look At These Three Verses, Look For How Many Times Paul Uses The Word “All” Or “Every”!
    - Is There Something Missing:
      - In Your Knowledge Of God’s Will:

- In Your Life?
  - I Think - If We Are Honest With Ourselves - We Will All Have To Admit - Yes!
- Because To “Know” God’s Will In This Way:
  - Means That You Will **Do** His Will!
    - Even As We Read In Another Prayer From Hebrews 13:20-21 - “Now [may] the God of peace . . . Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight!”
- We All Need A Deeper Knowledge Of God’s Will!
  - But We Also Need:
    - A Discerning Knowledge:
      - Of God’s Will!
        - A “Knowledge” - 1:9 - “In All Wisdom & Spiritual Understanding!”
      - You See - We Don’t Just Need:
        - More Information:
          - About God’s Will!
            - After All - Whenever You Open Your Bible - You Are Confronted With God’s Will On Every Page!
      - We Need:
        - More **Application**:
          - Of God’s Will!
            - **That’s Wisdom!**
        - Taking What You Know About God & His Will:
          - And Using & Applying It To Your Life!
            - Because - There Is A Difference Between Being “Smart” & Being “Wise” - Isn’t There!
        - We Need A Deeper Knowledge:
          - Of God’s Will - “In All Wisdom!” Also:
      - We Also Need:
        - More **Illumination**:
          - Of God’s Will!
            - **That’s Understanding!**
        - This Means That You Don’t Just Know:
          - The Whats - But The Whys & The Hows!
            - **IE**: Working On My Dad’s Train, It Became Easier When I Understood How All The Electrical Components Worked Together!
          - This Too Is What We Need!
      - But Where Does This Kind Of Knowledge:
        - Come From?
          - It Is A “Spiritual” Knowledge & Wisdom & Understanding!
            - It Must Come From God Through His Holy Spirit!
          - 1 Corinthians 2:14 - “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned!”
            - So - How Can We Be Filled With This Knowledge?
              - Luke 11:13 - “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”
    - This Is What We Need!
      - A Greater & Deeper Fulness:
        - Of The Knowledge Of God’s Will!
      - And So - Let Us Pray As Paul Did:
        - Because We Believe:
          - That God Will Supply This Need:
            - Through The Illumination Of The Spirit Of God Himself!
        - But Even As We Pray:
          - For This Greater Fulness:
            - It Will Lead To - A Second Thing:
              - That We Ought To Pray For!

## 2. *A Greater Faithfulness!*

- Which We Read About In:
  - 1:10a - “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing!”
    - This Is Actually The Main Point:
      - Of Paul’s Prayer!
    - He Prayed For:
      - A Greater Fulness:
        - In Their Knowledge Of God’s Will - So That It Will Lead Them To:
          - A Greater Faithfulness:
            - As They “Walk Worthy Of The Lord!”
  - This Too Is:
    - One Of Our Greatest & Deepest Needs:
      - As Christians!
        - To “Walk Worthy Of The Lord!”
    - So - What Should We Do:
      - With This Need?
        - We Should Pray - Even As Paul Prayed!
- For A Change In Our Demeanor!
  - In Our “Walk” Or Our “Lifestyle!”
    - To “Walk” Here Means That:
      - Your Life Will Be Marked In A Distinctive Way!
        - **IE**: Ever Seen Or Been To A Car Race - They Are Marked All Over With Their Sponsor’s Names & Logos! No Doubt Who They Are Driving For!
      - To “Walk Worthy Of The Lord” Means:
        - There Is No Doubt Who You Are Living For! Because You Are:
  - Living To Honor The Lord!
    - After All The Lord Has Done For You:
      - And I Believe The “Lord” In This Verse Refers Especially To Our Savior, Jesus Christ, As Our Lord!
    - But - After All The Lord Has Done For You:
      - Doesn’t He Deserve A Life Of Love & Obedience To Him?
        - 1 Corinthians 6:20 - “For ye are bought with a price!”
        - Jesus Came & Lived & Died & Rose Again For You! **He Is Worthy!**
      - To “Walk Worthy Of The Lord” Means That:
        - As You Remember:
          - What The Lord Has Done For You:
        - You Respect & Honor Him!
          - But Then:
            - You Reflect Him:
              - As You Are:
    - Living In Harmony With The Lord!
      - 1 Corinthians 6:20 - “Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s!”
        - And All Of This Will Flow From:
          - Your Knowledge Of God’s Will!
          - The **Fuller** You Are:
            - The **More Faithful** You Will Be!
    - And So - We Need To Pray:
      - For This Ongoing Change:
        - In Our Demeanor & In Our Walk!
          - To “Walk Worthy Of The Lord!”
        - But We Should Also Pray:
  - For A Change In Our Desires!
    - As It Says In 1:10 - “Unto All Pleasing!”
      - Again - We Find That Complete & Comprehensive Word:
        - “All!”
      - This Means That You Live Your Life:
        - With This As Your Aim And Goal!
          - **To Please The Lord:**

**- In All Things:**

- And In Every Part Of Your Life!

- Paul Puts It Another Way In:

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 - "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God!"

- This Too Is What We Need!

- A Greater & Deeper Faithfulness!

- To "Walk Worthy Of The Lord Unto All Pleasing!"

- And So - Let Us Pray As Paul Did:

- Because We Believe:

- That God Will Supply This Need:

- As Well!

- But Even As We Pray:

- For This Greater Faithfulness:

- It Will Also Lead To:

**3. A Greater Fruitfulness!**

- Which We Also Read About In:

- 1:10b - "Being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God!"

- In Verses 10-11 - Paul Uses Four Key Words:

- To Explain A Bit More For Us:

- What It Means To "Walk Worthy Of God!"

- The Four Words Are:

- "Being Fruitful" - Here In 1:10!

- "Increasing" - Also Here In 1:10!

- "Strengthened" - In 1:11!

- And "Giving Thanks" - In 1:12!

- We're Only Going To Look At The First Three Of These Words, Because The Fourth - "Giving Thanks" Is Developed Even Further In 1:12-14!

- But Each Of These Four Words:

- Are Closely Related To Your Walk As A Christian:

- As You Desire To "Walk Worthy Of The Lord!"

- And These Too Are:

- Some Of Our Greatest & Deepest Needs:

- As Christians!

- Especially - A Greater Fruitfulness For The Lord!

- Are You A Fruitful Christian?

- Well - What Kind Of Fruit:

- Is Paul Talking About Here? First:

- Growth In God's Goodness!

- 1:10 - "Being Fruitful In Every Good Work!"

- There Are Many "Good Works" That Can & Ought To Be Done By Christians!

- There Are Visible Works:

- Like Fellowship & Service!

- There Are Hidden Works:

- Like Prayer & Giving!

- And Paul's Prayer:

- Is That **Every** Good Work:

- Might Be Manifested In Our Lives!

- So - Our Lives Ought To Be Like:

- The Tree Of Life In The Book Of Revelation:

- Which "Bare Twelve Manner Of Fruits, And Yielded Her Fruit Every Month: And The Leaves Of The Tree Were For The Healing Of The Nations!"

- Even Though We Are Not Saved:

- **By** Our Good Works - We **Are** Saved:

- **Unto** Good Works!

- And These Works Are Good:

- Only As They Reflect & Conform To God's Own Goodness!

- Of Course - The Scriptures Also Teach:
  - Other Kinds Of Fruit:
    - Like The Spiritual Fruit Of Galatians 5:
      - But Even That Internal Fruit Is Meant To Flourish Into Something That Will Bless God & Benefit Others!
    - Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them!"
  - Is There A Growing Fruitfulness:
    - In Your Life As A Christian?
      - In Works That Are Beneficial To Others?
        - We Need To Pray - Even As Paul Prayed - That We Might Grow In God's Goodness! And Also - That There Might Be:
- Growth In God's Grace!
  - 1:10c - "And increasing in the knowledge of God!"
    - This Is The Other Side Of Our Fruitfulness:
      - As Christians!
  - The Fruit - Of Good Works:
    - Is What God **Enables Us** To Do!
      - But The Fulness - The Increase Of Our Fruit:
        - Is What God **Gives** To Us!
  - The Word "Increasing" Is A Passive Word!
    - And This Means It Is Something God Does:
      - For Us - Not Something We Do Ourselves!
    - **IE:** Its Like A Fruit Tree - The Fruit Of An Apple Tree Is Its Own Fruit - But The Life Of An Apple Tree Comes From God!
      - The Same Thing Happens When We Are Saved & When We Grow As Christians!
        - 1 Corinthians 3:6-7 - "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. / So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase!"
  - And As We Pray:
    - That We Might Grow In God's Grace:
      - What Will He Give Us - In Answer To Our Prayers?
        - An Increase "In The Knowledge Of God!"
    - The Word For "Knowledge" Here:
      - Is The Same Word For "Knowledge" In 1:9!
        - But There Is A Difference In This Knowledge!
    - In 1:9 - Paul Prays For:
      - A Fuller & Deeper Knowledge:
        - Of God's Will! But Here:
    - In 1:10 - God Provides:
      - A Fuller & Deeper Knowledge:
        - Of Himself!
  - And This Is What We Need:
    - More & More In Our Lives!
      - A Greater Growth:
        - In God's Goodness & God's Grace!
  - And So - Let Us Pray:
    - For This Kind Of Fruit:
      - To Be Full - Believing That:
        - God Himself Will Answer Our Prayer! With Even A Greater Knowledge Of & Relationship With Him!
  - Living As A Fruitful Christian:
    - Is How We Can "Walk Worthy Of The Lord!"
      - But This Will Also Lead To:

#### 4. ***A Greater Fortitude!***

- Which We Read About In:
  - 1:11 - "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering

- with joyfulness!”
  - Paul Knew Some Of The Issues:
    - That The Colossian Christians Were Facing:
      - And So - He Also Prays That The Lord Will “Strengthen” Them, So That They Can “Walk Worthy Of The Lord!”
  - He Knew & We Know - All Too Well:
    - Just How Weak We Are:
      - Apart From The Lord - In Our Own Minds, Hearts & Wills!
  - And So This Too Is:
    - One Of Our Greatest & Deepest Needs:
      - As Christians!
        - We Need God’s Strength!
    - And What Should We Do:
      - With This Need?
        - We Should Pray - Even As Paul Prayed - For God’s Own:
- Sufficient Strength!
  - Once Again - We See That Word “All!”
    - We Can Pray That We Might Be:
      - “Strengthened With All Might!”
        - That Is - With A Full & A Complete Strength!
  - You Need To Remember That:
    - God Is Able To “Supply All Your Need” Of Strength!
      - No Matter How Weak You May Be!
        - His Strength Is All-Sufficient!
      - So - Go To Him & Pray For His Strength! His Strength Is Also A:
- Substantial Strength!
  - Not Only Is God’s Strength Sufficient:
    - It Is Even *More* Than Sufficient - *More* Than Enough!
      - After All - God Himself Is Omnipotent! He Possesses *All* Power & Might & Strength!
  - And We Can Now Pray For The Lord’s Strength:
    - 1:11 - “According To His Glorious Power!”
      - The Power & Might Of God:
        - Is Beyond All Comprehension & Is Beyond All Competition!
    - And So - His Strength:
      - Is Available For You:
        - To “Walk Worthy Of The Lord” No Matter What You Face!
    - As Annie Flint Once Wrote:
      - “His love has no limits, His grace has no measure, His power no boundary known unto men; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!”
  - But His Strength Is Also:
- A Sustaining Strength!
  - God’s Strength Can Provide Us:
    - All The Patience & Longsuffering & Joy:
      - That We Need:
        - As We Seek & Strive To “Walk Worthy Of The Lord!”
  - Think About Paul & Silas:
    - In Acts 16:25 - After They Were:
      - “Thrust” Into Prison - “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God!”
    - Even Though What Happened To Paul & Silas:
      - Was Unfair & Unjust & Not Right:
        - God’s Strength Sustained Them, So They Could Remain Faithful To The Lord With Patience & Longsuffering & Joy!
- Oh How We Need These Graces:
  - In Our Lives - Don’t We?
    - Patience & Longsuffering & Joy!
      - In This World!
      - In Our Church!

- With Each Other!

**Conclusion:**

1. And So What Do With All These Great Needs?
  - For The Greater Fulness & Faithfulness:
    - And the Greater Fruitfulness & Fortitude:
      - That We Need?
        - Even As Paul & Timothy & Even Epaphras:
2. We Must:
  - "Not Cease To Pray" To The Lord:
    - For These Things!
      - In Our Own Lives!
        - As Well As In The Lives Of Others!
  - And: ***We Pray:***
    - ***Because We Believe!***
      - If You Ask:
        - It Will Be Given You!
      - If You Seek:
        - You Will Find
      - If You Knock:
        - It Will Be Opened Unto You!
- So: Let Us Pray:
  - ***This Prayer:***
    - ***To Please God!***

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