

Colossians 1:9-14, Part 3

We introduced this portion of Scripture by focusing our time primarily on verses 9 and 10.

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we 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, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord

What we learned from these verses is that...Paul is praying, without ceasing, that they might be filled with, controlled by, overcome by the will of God in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so that they might walk in a way that brings Him honor and glory...which is standing firm together in the truth and striving forward together with the truth.

What happens when we do that? We see a number of things that happen in rapid fire order....

to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. 13 For He rescued 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.

There are several super-natural reactions that occur when we walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. We are going to walk our way through each of these reactions one by one over the next 2 weeks.

1. Please Him in all respects v10

to please Him in all respects

1. **Look to Christ**
2. **Listen to Christ**
3. **Live for Christ**

2. Produce fruit in every good work v10b

bearing fruit in every good work

John 15:1-8

1. Fruit
2. more fruit
3. and much fruit.

3. Progressing in our knowledge of God v10c

and increasing in the knowledge of God;

If we occupy ourselves with walking worthy of the Lord, we will increase in our knowledge of God.

1. Our knowledge of God is critical! In fact, eternity depends on it!
2. John 17:3 *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

3. Eternal life = Knowing God. Do we have the knowledge of God?

Do you know God? Yes? Well, then....

1. How did you come to know Him?
 - a. Did you read Genesis 1:1-Revelation 22:21 in search of who He is?
 - b. Second hand information?
 1. Would you marry a blind date on the testimony of your best friend?
 2. Then why would you stake your eternity on the words of another?
2. Truth be known, most of us define God by 1 John 4:8..God is love. 2 problems!
 - a. God is so much more than just love. He is.....
 - b. When we just think of God as love, we have a tendency to define God by our idea of love...which means we define who God is.
 - c. He made us in His image, but we often try to make Him in our image.
3. Study the Word of God in search of God! Eternity depends upon it. How?

The Gospel begins with God and flows from the knowledge of God. The Gospel is God-centered.

1. **God**

1. The gospel begins with a God who is absolutely perfect
2. He is holy
 - a. In Revelation 4 there are four creatures surrounding the throne of God
 - b. One looked like a lion, one like an ox, one like an eagle in flight, and one like a man...each with 6 wings...covered in eyes...and they continually cry Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty who was, and is, and is to come.
3. These creatures who would terrify us are overcome with the holiness and separateness of God.
4. If we were to stand before this holy, righteous and great God, we would, like Ezekiel fall to the ground like a dead man.
5. It is only as we see Him for who He is that we see ourselves for who we are.

2. **Man**

1. We are according to Ephesians 2, dead in our trespasses and sins
 - a. We are following the course of this world...caught up in the current of the culture
 - b. Led on by the Prince of the power of the air...Satan himself.
2. It is only when we see God for who He is that we see ourselves for who we are.
3. In Isaiah 6, Isaiah saw the Lord, high and lifted up and the train of His robe filled the temple. The doorposts shook, there was smoke, and there were seraphim with 6 wings crying Holy, Holy, Holy.
 - a. Isaiah saw Himself in the mirror of the perfect holiness of God
 - b. His response was "woe is me, for I am undone!"

c. My friend we are undone!

4. It is only as we see our hopelessness and helplessness that we will see our great need for Christ.

3. Christ

1. We cannot do anything to correct the problem that God has with us.
2. We will stand before this holy and just God one day and we will have nothing to bring to the courtroom but the evidence of our guilt.
3. But, this God who is holy and just, is also love. He made a way for us.
4. 2 Corinthians 5:21 *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*
5. When we see the holiness of God, we see clearly our sinfulness... and our need for Christ. And when we see the mercy and grace of God in Christ, we long to respond appropriately.

4. Response

1. Repentance
2. Faith
3. Transformation

Our salvation is not only rooted in this God-centered Gospel, but our sanctification is as well.

1. That is why we must be increasing in the knowledge of God...not settling for what we think we have and moving on.
2. It is in this one doctrine...the doctrine of God that will jump start our spiritual growth
3. It is digging into the attributes of God that will fuel our spiritual growth.

According to Paul, We must increase in the knowledge of God.

1. Increase in our knowledge of God

- a. There is always something to learn about God...that is why eternal life is knowing Him!
- b. We will spend eternity knowing Him...and never know all there is to know about even one of His attributes.
- c. He is infinite!
- d. As we go deeper in our knowledge of God we see ourselves in more clarity

2. Increase in our knowledge of Man

- a. As we see ourselves in more clarity under the light of the glory of God, we see how much more sinful we are than we previously thought
- b. We see how much needier we are than we previously thought
- c. As we see our need in greater light, we increase in our hunger and thirst for Christ..

3. Increase in our knowledge of Christ

- a. Our love for Christ grows
- b. Our gratefulness for Christ grows
- c. Our knowledge of Christ grows...and our response grows as well.

4. Increase in our level of Response

- a. When our knowledge of God increases, and our knowledge of our need increases, and the knowledge and love for Christ increases, this will bring us to
 1. A deeper, fuller, richer repentance
 2. A deeper, fuller, richer faith
 3. And a deeper, fuller, richer transformation...a fuller conformity to the image of Christ.
- b. As we respond with a deeper and richer repentance and faith we will be able to see more of, and know more of God...which leads us through the whole process all over again.

It is through the knowledge of God that we are saved...and it is through knowledge of God and the strength that comes through knowing Him that we are sanctified, steadfast, and patient.

4. Powerfully strengthened for Patient Persevering v11a

11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might,

1. We will be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might
 - a. Literally, “the might of His glory.”
 - b. We will be strengthened with all power according to them might of His glory.
2. For what? What do we need this kind of strength and power for?

for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience;

1. We need the might of His glory to strengthen us so that we can obtain steadfastness and perseverance.
 - a. We are secure in Christ.
 - b. He promised that no one would snatch his sheep out of his hand.
2. But we are also commanded to “keep ourselves in the love of God” and to “work out our salvation with fear and trembling.”
3. We only keep ourselves, persevere, because He has strengthened us according to His might.
4. Our sanctification and security, our steadfastness and perseverance are a result of who He is.

5. Praising with Joyous thanksgiving for our salvation v11c-14

joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. 13 For He rescued 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.

The God-centered Gospel is for salvation...and for sanctification...and is the only way to joy filled exaltation and glorification.

1. He has qualified us...we do not qualify ourselves. He qualifies us!
2. Redemption!!!! The GOSPEL! The inheritance.
3. That will bring joy!