

STUDIES IN COLOSSIANS
PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE COLOSSIANS

Colossians 1:9-14

9 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, 10 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. 11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, 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.

1. TO BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S WILL (v.9)

Knowledge (epignosis) FULL KNOWLEDGE
(Philippians 1:9; Ephesians 1:17; Philemon 6; Col. 2:2; Col. 2:3)

The knowledge of the divine will is to pervade all our being: our thoughts, our affections, our purposes and plans. To be filled with the knowledge of God's will, that is, to have a thorough, deep, and accurate understanding of God's will, is the foundation of all Christian character.

2. TO LIVE WORTHY OF THE LORD, PLEASING HIM IN EVERY WAY (v.10)

1) Through Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work (v.10)

2) Through Increasing in the Knowledge of God (v.10)

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,
and knowledge of the Holy one is understanding."

3) Through Being Strengthened With All Power (v.11)

We do not live the Christian life in our own power.

Philippians 4:13 (ESV) "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Paul lists three ways Christ's power expresses itself in our lives.

- * Expressing Great Endurance (CIRCUMSTANCES)
- * Expressing Patience (PEOPLE)
- * Expressing Joy

The Christian prayer is: "Make me, O Lord, victorious over every circumstance; make me patient with every person; and withal give me the joy which no circumstance and no man will ever take from me."

4) Through Giving Thanks To The Father (v.12)

- * For Qualifying Us To Share in the Inheritance of the Saints in the Kingdom of Light (v.12)
- * For Rescuing us From the Dominion of Darkness (v.13)
- * For Bringing Us Into the Kingdom of the Son He Loves (v.13)
- * For Our Redemption and Forgiveness of Sin Which Comes through the Son (v.14)