

The Book of Colossians

Lesson 3

Study Notes

The Apostle Paul's Prayer and Desire for the Colossians

Text: Colossians 1:9-14.

Introduction: The Apostle here is full of thanksgiving; but he cannot rest in even that. Just because he is so thankful, he must at once go on to pray. Have the Colossians so truly found life in the name of Jesus Christ as reported, the he must at once ask that they may live it out in the right manner. Have they received the power, the fire, of love, kindled in the golden lamp of faith? Then he must pray, with all his soul, that this power may be passed into the channel of the will of God, that this flame may burn along the path of humble and happy obedience.

Here is a paragraph which may fitly form part of our daily intercession for ourselves and others. We all need a quicker insight into God's will, and this is only acquired through the _____ and understanding communicated by the _____ to our spirits. But that understanding is conditioned, as in Colossians 1:10, by a daily behavior which pleases God and bears fruit in every good work. It is as we slowly climb the ascent of _____ living that the landscape of God's nature expands around us. As character and knowledge grow, so will our spiritual strength; but notice that frequently such strength is needed not so much for great exploits, as for the patient bearing of the Cross, Colossians 1:11.

I. Paul's Desire That They Might Be Filled with the Knowledge of His Will.

Note: The word "desire" is "aiteo (ahee-the'-o) that which is called for; a requirement, crave or beg.

Note: the word "filled" is pleroo (play-ro'-o) means to cram, level up, to furnish, to make full, to fill full; to cause to abound; to furnish or supply liberally.

Warren Wiersbe states that the term pleroo was used to describe a _____ fully prepared for _____.

A word study of pleroo gives us three angles concerning it's meaning.

1. Filled to Completion- A filling "so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure."
2. Filled to Consummate- A filling to "accomplish; to carry out some undertaking; to render perfect."
3. Filled to Carry into Effect- A filling "to bring to a realization in the matters of duty; to perform or execute to fulfill the will of another."

The verb "filled" occurs _____ times in this Epistle; it suggests the _____ state of those prayed for.

A. Filled with Knowledge.

The enemy of the church in that day was the Gnostics.

The term "Gnosticism" comes from the Greek word gnosis, which refers to _____ or _____. While the Bible promises salvation by grace through faith for all who place their trust in Jesus Christ as

Lord (Ephesians 2:8–9), Gnosticism teaches that salvation is for those who are enlightened and arrived at the proper knowledge of their own spiritual condition, known as gnosis. They also taught cosmological dualism. Dualistic cosmology is the moral or spiritual belief that two fundamental concepts exist, which often oppose each other.

Asceticism: severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons:

Docetism: the doctrine, important in Gnosticism, that Christ's body was not _____ but either a phantasm or of real but celestial substance, and that therefore his sufferings were only apparent. The word knowledge in our text is in contrast with the knowledge of Gnostics. It is full knowledge, super-knowledge, thorough knowledge gained by _____, and deep accurate comprehension. The knowledge is of God's will not His _____. We are not expected to understand and explain the Trinity, but we are expected to understand His plan and His purpose for our lives. Knowledge is accumulating facts; wisdom is the ability to _____ the facts.

B. Filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

It is important to note that the will of God carries the _____ of God. When we have God's authority it assures the believer's _____. "In all wisdom" here means practical good sense, the ability to use knowledge. "Spiritual understanding" is spiritual insight, correct apprehension, inner perception, and clear discernment. This phrase indicates the mode in which this being filled was to take place; not through human, fleshly wisdom, but wisdom and understanding wrought by the Holy Spirit.

II. Paul's Desire That They Might Walk Worthy.

A. The walk of the Christian life.

Walk means "to make one's way, to progress, to make due use of one's opportunities; to regulate one's life." Walk refers to the total conduct and course of life. Right knowledge issues in right conduct; right conduct is never the product of wrong knowledge. The Christian should walk in a manner corresponding to what Christ has done for him. We say that we are not our own, but bought with a price. Then how do we repay that costly purchase. Nothing short of complete self-surrender can characterize the walk that corresponds with our obligations to Christ. The Christian should act in a manner corresponding to Christ's character and conduct. Nothing less than the effort to tread in His footsteps is a walk worthy of the Lord. All unlikeness to His pattern is a dishonor to Him and to ourselves.

B. The works of the Christian life. "Being fruitful in every good work,"

Good works and salvation walk hand in hand. We are justified along three lines.

1. We are justified by _____. Makes salvation possible. **Romans 5:9.**
2. We are justified by _____. Makes salvation personal. **Romans 3:28.**
3. We are justified by _____. Makes salvation practical.

James 2:20-21 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? 21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Christians should be perennial fruit bearers; that is continually bearing fruit.

C. *The wonder of the Christian life. "Increasing in the knowledge of God;"*

The wonder of the Christian life is the we can _____ God. We can get to know Him through His _____. God has revealed Himself. He has made clear the He wants us to know Him by giving us sixty-six books of divine revelation. A good question to ask ourselves, "Am I increasing in the knowledge of God?" Do I know Him better today than I did a year ago? Getting to know God is the highest, holiest, and happiest occupation in the universe, it is the very stuff of which eternity is made.

III. Paul's Desire That They Might Be Strengthened with All Might.

A. Strengthened with all might.

The word strengthened is in the Greek present tense and indicates that God keeps continuously and progressively filling us with dynamic _____.

B. Strengthened with His power.

Power from His limitless omnipotence. This strengthening is not proportioned simply to our need, but according to His abundant _____.

C. Strengthened with patience.

Patience is forbearance, steadfast endurance, fortitude, and the capacity to see things through.

D. Strengthened with long-suffering.

This is the opposite of wrath and revenge; it is self-restraint, even temperedness, holding out long.

E. Strengthened with joyfulness.

The kind of joy is like flowers beneath the snow, and songs in the night. Joy that is not mere happiness because happiness depends on what happens, this is joy that is the fruit of the Spirit of God.

IV. Paul's Delight of Their Deliverance from Darkness.

A. He has made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has made us fit; He qualified us and made us competent. There are no degrees of fitness. Fitness depends on privilege and position, not character or experience. The Greek aorist tense points to the instantaneous act of _____, not a progressive process.

B. He has delivered us from the power of darkness.

Darkness speaks of a miserable, horrible state of being held captive by Satan. Darkness is a symbol of ignorance, falsehood, and sin.

C. He has given us redemption through His blood.

This is a present possession. We have redemption because of our union with Christ. Redemption means deliverance, ransom, release, it speaks of our release on the payment of the ransom.

Conclusion: Paul's desire and prayer for the Colossians were that they would be in the will of the Lord, walk with the Lord, and understand the reason for their worship was the redemption they had in Jesus Christ.