

INTRODUCTION

In our text this week, Paul continues to pray for the family of God in Colossae. Surprisingly Paul isn't praying for monetary wealth or physical well-being for the church at Colossae, though those things were probably needed, Paul prayed for things which were longer lasting and more needed. Paul is not requesting these things for the glory of the fellowship or for a mega-church to be planted at Colossae, but he prayed for qualities that only God could provide.

Colossians 1:9-14 (NKJV)

⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

“For this reason” connects with the previous verses, and it means because of Epaphras' report. Paul prays they are filled with knowledge of His (God's) will and wisdom and spiritual understanding.

Proverbs 4:7 (NKJV) says:

⁷ *Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.*

Proverbs 16:16 (NKJV) says:

¹⁶ *How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.*

We need **wisdom** to apply the spiritual knowledge in the way God wants it applied. Understanding is seeing what is in line with God's word and what isn't. Understanding is hit or miss in the flesh, but always on target in the Spirit.

“**Walking worthy** of the Lord” means living our lives **to please Him** and not ourselves. We realize we've done enough to please our flesh. What we didn't realize was how insatiable our flesh was until we were hooked! So how do we please God? Has God equipped us to please Him? *Heb. 11:6 says without faith it is impossible to please Him.* Do we have faith? Romans 12:3 says:

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one (believer) a measure of faith. How did we come by this faith? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17).

“Walking worthy of the Lord” means *being fruitful in every good work*. We know that we are not saved by good works but we are saved for good works. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NKJV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God,

⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. But we are expected to reflect our faith by our works.

Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Matthew 5:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

2 Corinthians 9:8 (NKJV)

⁸ And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

Walking worthy of the Lord will allow you to be **strengthened** with all might according to His glory. This doesn't mean you'll be strengthened to draw attention away from Him and to to you by talking in tongues without interpretation, or healing the sick, casting out demons and raising the dead. All of these things are great and will manifest themselves as God sees fit, but in this instance this power is not for that. This power is so that you can have joy in midst of a storm.

Walking worthy of the Lord means that *God will build patience and longsuffering into your way of life*. We find this also in verse 11: "for all patience and longsuffering with joy" The word "patience" has to do with hopeful, joyful endurance, with steadfast waiting on God. The word "longsuffering" has to do with calmness and forbearance in our walk; not suffering in silence but active in the ways of God with joy. Even in the eye of the storm we can have joy and praise Him in the midst. How can this be? In the natural, this doesn't make sense. Well the reason we can praise and thank God the Father right in the middle of our circumstances is because of what God the Father has done for us through His son Jesus Christ.

1. God has **qualified** us. We have no qualifications of our own. These qualifications can't be earned or studied to gain. We can only be qualified by the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2. He (Jesus) has given us an **inheritance**. An inheritance can't be earned by the inheritor. An inheritance can't be bought by the inheritor. An inheritance is usually given to a blood relative.
3. We're **delivered** from darkness and the power it had over us.
4. We've been **redeemed** by the blood of Christ. We've been taken out of the slave market forever; the slave market of sin and death.
5. We've been **forgiven** of all our sins. (Psalm 103:12)