

Colossians 1:9-14 Pray for God to be glorified, not us.

Has the knowledge of what Christ did changed your life or are you still the same? Do you understand what Christ did and what the Gospel- the good news is? Or do you just know about it but it hasn't changed the way you live and you act like a Christian Atheist – someone who believes in God but lives as if He doesn't exist.

We are going to look at Paul's prayer for the believers at Colosse. Do you ever feel like your prayers are repetitive? Like they are stale, not thought out or even don't really reflect your heart? It's the same prayer over and over and you might even feel like you don't know how to pray because it is so monotonous? Thank you God for this day, bless this person, help so and so, be with my mom...blah, blah, blah. You know the prayers which you don't even want to hear, let alone God, because they don't feel right? I know I get into that and I feel like my prayers sometimes are so surfacy where I wonder if it even qualifies as "talking with God." Paul prays for these believers in a way that is invigorating and a great example of how we should pray for each other.

Colossians 1:9-14

Greek for knowledge – gnosis

However Paul used epignosis (*epignōsis*) which means to have a deep and thorough knowledge, not just a surfacy knowledge but one that is correct and precise and shown through obedience. Eph 4:13-14 - lack of knowledge equals children thrown about and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

Gnosticism was teaching about gaining knowledge on your own to enlighten one's status, to be higher than others and boast that you are closer to God. However, Paul was using knowledge in the form of using it for application and obedience. Knowledge is pointless unless it causes you to act. The lack of knowledge causes God's children to be carried around with every wind of doctrine, instead of having a stabilized faith that is foundational and lived out in every day life.

v. 9 – Are you filled with the knowledge of His will? Do you want to be? Whenever I am trying to figure out God's will I get into his Word. I read, pray and just listen to what He has to say. But this knowledge should make you act on what He says. This knowledge isn't to boast that you are "closer" to God like the Gnostics were doing, but to do what God is telling you. His will is good and perfect and when you have it you have wisdom and spiritual understanding. His will isn't necessarily go here, do that...but it is understanding what He wants for your life and you just become naturally inclined to do it. If you just focus on gaining knowledge, it will just stay in your head and not move from there. Then you'll keep asking what is your will, what is your will? He says I've given you understanding now go do it.

v. 11 – your attitude during trials

v. 12 – Qualified – Greek *hikanoō* to make sufficient, to equip one with adequate power to perform duties of one. Our only qualification is the result of sin, because of our disobedience, which is His wrath. We have seen a picture of that through the flood, throughout the book of Habakkuk as he discusses sending the Babylonian army to wipe out cities of people. That's what we are qualified for. The Father, God, has made us sufficient by wiping our sins away, and

equipped us to share in the inheritance of those in the light. We are brought into God's family and share in the inheritance of eternal life and being in heaven with Jesus Christ with every other follower of Christ.

– light – a synonym for knowledge of divine truth. Again, during Paul's prayer he is bucking up against the heresy going on by saying the only knowledge you need divine truth that only those who trust in Christ can receive. The light is where God dwells and not the darkness. He is saying to be in the light all you need is the knowledge of Christ, all you need is Christ. Nothing more!

v. 13 – God has rescued us from living in the darkness, which is truly the domain of the devil because of hatred and deception which live there. When you act with hatred and deception you are in the darkness of Satan's world and not in the light of the Lord. 1 John 2:9-11

– His everlasting Kingdom (2 Peter 1:11) which is currently on earth and is for when you trust in Christ. You enter and have a spiritual relationship with God through Christ along with every other believer on the earth.

v. 14 – redemption through His blood – Christ's death on the cross, where His blood was spilled, was a payment for all the sin in the world. He freed everyone from the bondage of sin which led to death. Here Christ freed us sinners from being slaves to sin.

What's the common denominator of this prayer for the church at Colosse? To bring praise and honor to God for what He has done. The focus of Paul's prayer is to constantly please God, to bear fruit, to grow in the knowledge of God, have patience and endurance through His power, and to be thankful for what God has done. The focus of Paul's prayer was God and not us. Who deserves the glory and honor and praise for what has happened in our lives? God. Who should be recognized when we make it through a trial? God. Who do we look to for strength to have endurance and patience in order to get through the junk in our lives? God. So shouldn't our prayers be reflective of the person who deserves all that, instead of us? Pray for God to be glorified, not us. Then your prayers will not feel like a burden, or repetitive because you are praying for others and yourself to give God the glory through the knowledge of His will and that will lead to action.

Prayer:

Lord, fill us with the knowledge of your will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. We pray this in order that we may live a life worthy of you and please you in every way. Through bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of you, being strengthened with all power according to your glorious might so that we may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to you, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For you have rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son you love, in whom we have redemption and forgiveness of sins.