

Colossians - Chapter 1
“Teach us How to Pray, Paul”
Colossians 1:9-10

Verse 9

1. Since Paul had heard of the salvation of these people, he had regularly prayed for them.
2. Passages such as this give us great insight into Paul's prayer life.
 - When Paul prayed for others, what did he pray for?
 - What did Paul deem important as he prayed for others?
 - Did he pray for their material prosperity? Paul's prayers were always focused on the spiritual welfare of believers.
3. Paul desired that these converts be filled (fully furnished) with the knowledge of God's will.
4. We think of God's will in terms of the details of our daily lives, but that is not what Paul had in mind. Paul wanted these believers to understand what God is doing today in this dispensation of grace. The emphasis is not on them, but on God, and what God wants done today in the present dispensation.
5. God had an over-arching secret purpose and will that He has revealed through Paul. God's will is no longer a mystery, but has been fully revealed and manifested. Ephesians 1:9
6. How do we discover how we fit into God's objective, purpose, and plan for this present time period?
 - Paul says that it comes through wisdom and spiritual understanding. cf. Ephesians 5:17
7. How do I grow in wisdom and spiritual understanding? I grow as I study and learn God's Word. God's Word reveals God's will. 2 Timothy 3:15-16
 - I understand the will of God as the Spirit of God teaches me the Word of God.
8. Do you want to be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding? You must read, learn, and understand the revelation that Christ gave to you through Paul. It is the key. Read Ephesians 3:3-4.
 - The word “*knowledge*” is the same word translated “*understanding*” in Colossians 1:9. Paul is saying, “When you read what I have written to you, you understand my understanding in the mystery of Christ.” cf. 2 Timothy 2:7; Acts 22:14
 - All of God's Word is profitable, but Paul's passion was that believers would understand God's will that had been revealed through him for this present dispensation. cf. 1:25-26, 2:2-3
 - Without that understanding, no matter how sincere we may be, we cannot “*walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.*” vs. 10
9. Please understand, it isn't that God is not concerned about the details of your life. He most certainly is. He loves you and wants you to talk to Him about everything in your life.

10. But if a believer is ignorant of the will and purpose of God for this present dispensation, then does it really matter if he should go into the ministry or serve God in Mexico, or Brazil on the mission field? He will do more harm than good in whatever He endeavors if he doesn't have an intelligent understanding of God's will, purpose, and plan for today.
11. As we read God's Word and understand Paul's mystery, we begin to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, and then we can take that knowledge and apply it to the details of our lives with wisdom.

Verse 10

1. Without a proper knowledge of what God is doing today, there is no way that we can experience a fruitful and pleasing life unto the Lord.
2. Some people think that all that God is concerned about is sincerity, and that if a person is sincere, God is pleased. Nothing could be further from the truth.
3. Without a proper spiritual understanding from God's Word, it doesn't matter how sincere you are. You will end up off course, unfruitful, and counterproductive in God's work. This is what Paul is teaching in verse 10.
 - As we read and gain understanding into God's plan and purpose for today (revealed through Paul), it serves as a compass that directs us and helps us in our decision making and prioritizing.
 - Until you gain a basic understanding of God's **Word**, your **walk** won't be right.
4. A proper understanding of God's will for today enables the believer to:
 - *“Walk worthy of the Lord”* - This simply means “to walk in an appropriate and godly manner.”
 - *“Unto all pleasing”* - It is by Christ's revelations through Paul that we learn how to walk and to please God, according to 1 Thessalonians 4:1.
 - *“Being fruitful in every good work”* - Sound doctrine and spiritual understanding lays the foundation for true spiritual fruitfulness. It is impossible to be fruitful in every good work if we don't have an intelligent understanding of what He is doing.
 - *“And increasing in the knowledge of God”* - Once I gain an understanding of the knowledge of God's will (vs. 9) and what He is doing in this present day, then I can begin to truly increase (grow) in the knowledge of God. I can begin to know, understand, and discern God in a deeper and more meaningful way.
5. Did you notice a very important order in verses 9-10? There were three key words: wisdom, walk, and work. The order of these is extremely important.
 - I cannot be a productive worker for God if I am not walking with God, and I cannot walk with God if I am ignorant of God's will.
 - So, as I am filled with God's **wisdom**, I can **walk** with God and, in turn, I can effectively **work** for God, bearing spiritual fruit.