

# COLOSSIANS

## Lesson 2

### “ROOTED IN KNOWLEDGE”

**Ice Breaker:** Francis Bacon once said, “Knowledge is power.” What power has knowledge given you?

INTRO: People often use knowledge to gain the power to change their circumstances, but Paul tells us the knowledge of God’s will roots us deeply into a power that changes us!

#### Col. 1:9-14

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Q: Paul has already told the Colossians they were doing great in verse 4. He told them they had a commendable faith and a commendable love. Now in verse 9, Paul tells them that he and Timothy have not stopped praying for them. If they were doing so well, why were Paul and Timothy praying so much for them?

- They needed to know God’s will.
  - Vs. 9 “...asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.”
  - A Christian with strong faith and love can still lack guidance.
- Once you are motivated to obey God, the next step is to know what God wants.

Q: In verse 9, Paul asks God to fill them with the knowledge of His will through all wisdom and spiritual understanding. What does this mean?

- When Paul says he wants them to be filled, he means he wants them to be **fully aware** of what God wants for them.
- Apparently there are two things that will fill you with the knowledge of God’s will: Wisdom and spiritual understanding.
  - Wisdom is like what you find in Proverbs... its knowing what the end result of a certain action will be.
    - It is the ability to know how a desirable result can be obtained.
  - Spiritual understanding is probably more related to God revealing things to you.
    - It’s a sense of the spiritual ramifications of things.

Q: Paul sees the knowledge of God's will as something that will result in a certain kind of lifestyle. In verse 10, he prays for them to "**live a life worthy of the Lord**" and for them to "**please him in every way.**" Why do you think Paul connects these two thoughts and what is the implication?

- Living a life that is worthy of the Lord means working hard to please Him!
- To "**please him in every way**" means in all points to please God, not just be generally pleasing to God.
  - That means that everything is done with the **motivation** of pleasing God... not just hoping to generally be pleasing to God.
    - Pleasing God is the core of a Christian's motivation... not fear of punishment or rejection from God or man.
  - Essentially there are only two religions in the world: The religion of self and the religion of Christ.
    - They are mutually exclusive.
    - You can live to please God and find it pleasing to yourself, but you can't live to please yourself and be pleasing to God.

Q: Through the end of verse 10 and on into verses 11 and 12, Paul tells the Colossians (and us) how to "**live a life worthy of the Lord,**" and "**please him in every way.**" How would you explain Paul's instructions to another believer?

### **4 Ways Paul says we can, "Live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way..."**

#### **1. Bearing fruit in every good work:**

- a. We can't live a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing to Him unless we are working for Him.
- b. **Eph. 2:10** "*For we are God's workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.***"
- c. **Titus 3:14** "*And let our people also learn to **maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.***" (NKJV)
  - i. God considers ongoing good works and meeting people's urgent needs as bearing fruit.
  - ii. **Phil. 2:4** "*Each of you should look not only to your own interests, **but also to the interests of others.***"
  - iii. **Rom. 15:1** "*We who are strong ought to **bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. 2 Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.***"

#### **2. Growing in the knowledge of God**

- a. God has always wanted His people to get past superficial religious exercises and come to know Him and what pleases Him.
  - i. **Hos. 6:6** "*For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, and the **knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.***"
- b. God wants us to know Him well enough that we will know what pleases and displeases Him.
  - i. **Eph. 5:10** "*... and **find out what pleases the Lord.***"

ii. **Rom. 12:1-2** *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God**—this is your spiritual act of worship. **2** Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.**”*

1. To find out what pleases God, we have to let Him use us and move us, even in countercultural ways.

**3. Being strengthened with all power**

- a. The strength or ability to do the things that please the Lord has to come from Him, not your will power.
- b. I find in my life this strength and power comes when I just play my part in whatever comes my way and let Him control the outcome.

**4. Have great endurance and patience and joyfully giving thanks to the Father**

- a. The key here is that we should patiently endure “with joy”.
  - i. Non-Christians can often patiently endure, but what sets the disciple apart is being able to do so with joy.
  - ii. Being able to put up with difficult people and difficult times with joy is a fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23)

Q: In verses 12-14, Paul points to the motivation for living a life pleasing to the Lord. What does he tell them and why should it motivate us?

- **Col. 1:12-13** *“...giving thanks to the Father who has **qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*
    - We have an inheritance with all the other saints... Light!
      - The idea of an inheritance to the Jewish mind was about real estate.
      - But our inheritance is **light**... the light that comes from the gospel... the truth that the world around us can’t find.
    - We have been freed from being dominated by darkness.
      - We were in the Kingdom of darkness, under the power and authority of darkness, but now we have been conveyed (or deported) into the Kingdom of God.
      - That only happens when one kingdom conquers another. See Col. 2:15.
    - What might your life be if you didn’t know darkness had no power or authority over you?
      - You might feel trapped by certain sins; past or present.
-

APPLICATION ASSIGNMENT: *Answer the following questions as best you can, then get with your discipler/discipleship group and discuss your answers.*

1. Paul prays for these guys when they are doing well. When do you usually pray for people... when they are doing well or when they are in trouble?
2. What is really your motivation for doing the things you do: pleasing God, pleasing yourself or pleasing someone else? Draw a pie chart to illustrate.
3. Grade yourself (1-10) in the four ways Paul lists to describe a "life worthy of the Lord" that pleases him "in everyway."
  - a. What insight does this give you about your wisdom and spiritual understanding?