

Colossians 1:9-14, Part 2

Last week we introduced this portion of Scripture by focusing our time primarily on verses 9 and 10.

For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord

What we learned from these verses is that....Paul is praying, without ceasing, that they might be filled with, controlled by, overcome by the will of God in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so that they might walk in a way that brings Him honor and glory...which is standing firm together in the truth and striving forward together with the truth.

What happens when we do that? We see a number of things that happen in rapid fire order....

to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. 13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

There are several super-natural reactions that occur when we walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. We are going to walk our way through each of these reactions one by one over the next 2 weeks.

I. We Please Him in all respects v10

10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects,

We all want to please someone...to be accepted and approved.

1. That is why peer pressure works so good.
2. People will participate in the most foolish things just to feel accepted.
3. If we are followers of Jesus Christ, then it should be our goal to please Him above all others.

How can we be pleasing to God? Giving, praying, reading, going to church being good etc....filthy rags.

1. Look to Christ

Matthew 3:13-17

What do I mean when I say look to Christ? The word translated “looking” has the idea of zeroing our gaze on something with confidence.

a. Believing in Christ

- a. When we believe in Christ we are looking to Him for salvation
- b. John 3:14-16 As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; 15 so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.
- c. Believe means to commit, trust, obey

b. Knowing Christ

- a. When we increase in our knowledge of Christ we are looking to Him for fulfillment

b. John 17:3 *This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

- c. Knowing means to come to know, to recognize, to perceive.
 - 1. Do you know Him?
 - 2. Would you recognize Him?
 - 3. Do you perceive Him among us and at work around us?
- d. Do we know Christ we must consider Him as He is revealed to us in His Word.
- e. We must fix our eyes on Him!

c. Loving Christ

- a. When we grow in our love for Christ, we are looking to Him for our satisfaction.
- b. Loving Christ is different than loving the blessings of Christ or the promises of Christ
- c. Matthew 10:37 *"He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.*
- d. Looking to Jesus implies that He is our reward!

d. Conforming to Christ

- a. When we are conformed more and more into the image of Christ, we are looking to Him for our standard and pattern
- b. Romans 8:29 *For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son*

Oh! how should all hearts be taken with this Christ? Christians! turn your eyes upon the Lord: 'Look, and look again unto Jesus.' Why stand ye gazing on the toys of this world, when such a Christ is offered to you in the gospel? Can the world die for you? Can the world reconcile you to the Father? Can the world advance you to the kingdom of heaven? As Christ is all in all, so let him be the full and complete subject of our desire, and hope, and faith, and love, and joy; let him be in your thoughts the first in the morning, and the last at night. Isaac Ambrose

If we want to be pleasing to God, the first thing we must do is look to Christ in whom the Father is well pleased!

2. Listen to Christ

Matthew 17:1-5

- 1. He is the one who gave Adam the command in the garden not to eat of the tree
- 2. He is the one who gave the law to Moses on Mt. Sinai
- 3. He is the subject of the Psalms
- 4. He is the one who spoke His word to the prophets and fulfilled their prophecies
- 5. And then He came to dwell among men, the living Word

Let us interpret everything in the Bible through the lens of Jesus Christ.

3. Live for Christ

Matthew 25:14-30

Well done good and faithful servant

1. Talents—spiritual gifts, God given abilities
2. Opportunity—blank check!
3. Risk it all
 - a. Doing nothing needs forgiveness as much as doing the best you can and messing up.
 - b. it all came from God anyway, why not risk it all for him.
 - c. *Risk avoidance may be more sinful—more unloving—than taking the risk in faith and love and making a wrong decision.* John Piper

This type of life will lead to fruit-bearing

II. Produce fruit in every good work v10b

bearing fruit in every good work

If we are walking in a manner worthy of Christ, it will be our desire to live fruitful lives; producing fruit in **EVERY** good work.

1. Think of the ways we seek to produce fruit: money, trophies, IRA's and 401K's etc.
 - a. What if we started caring as much about kingdom fruit as earthly achievements.
 - b. What if we started caring as much about eternal reward as temporal gains?
 - c. What if we started pouring ourselves into walking in a manner worthy of Christ
 - a. defending the truth together
 - b. Advancing the gospel together
 - c. What kind of fruit would we have then?
2. God wants us to be fruitful. He won't tolerate anything else.
3. John 15:1-8
 - a. Fruit
 - b. more fruit
 - c. and much fruit.

The fruit He is really looking for is the fruit of repentance.

1. Luke 13:1-9
2. Have you truly repented of Your sin this morning?
3. Have you truly trusted Christ?
4. This is the main fruit He is looking for in You today.

THE GOSPEL