

Spiritual Growth for The Saints | Colossians 1:9-14

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Prayer

- Paul prays for the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of God's will;
- The will of God and the word of God are parallel;
- How do we know God's will? He has revealed it to us through His holy Word
 - a. "For this is the will of God, your sanctification..." (1 Thessalonians 4:3)
 - b. "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:18)
 - c. "How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!" (Psalm 119:9-10)

The Purpose

- The purpose of Paul's prayer is that the Colossians would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord because it pleases Him.
- Paul then provides four illustrations of spiritual growth:
 1. Bearing fruit;
 2. Increasing in the knowledge of God;
 - a. "We must learn something of that will in order to obey it; discovery of more of that will is contingent on obeying what we know of it." (D.A. Carson)
 3. Being strengthened;
 4. Giving thanks;

The Foundation

- Paul circles back to the message of the gospel for the Colossians because the foundation and motivation for spiritual growth is in what God has done for them through Christ Jesus.
 - a. "If God had perceived that our greatest need was economic, he would have sent an economist. If he had perceived that our greatest need was entertainment, he would have sent us a comedian or an artist. If God had perceived that our greatest need was political stability, he would have sent us a politician. If had perceived that our greatest need was health, he would have sent a doctor. But our greatest need involved our sin, our alienation from him, our profound rebellion, our death, and he sent us a Savior." (D.A. Carson)

Main Idea

Spiritual growth is the Christians response to the work of God for them and in them.

Benediction | Hebrews 13:20

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.