

“Gospel Growth”

Colossians 1:9-14

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Big Idea: *Paul prays that believers would grow spiritually*

Be filled with the knowledge of His will | v.9.

- The Greek word for "knowledge" in this passage is (epignōsis) It is knowledge which is the result of practical and personal experience.
- Hosea 4:6 *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”*
- Ephesians 4:14 *“¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”*
- Westminster Shorter Catechism | Q.2: What rule has God given us to direct us how we may glorify God and enjoy him? A: The word of God.
- Westminster Shorter Catechism | Q.3 What does the Bible primarily teach? A: It teaches what mankind is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man

Be walking in a manner worthy of the Lord | v.10.

- “Walking” is a metaphor for lifestyle
- Enoch and Noah walked with God [Genesis 5:24; 6:9]
- Christian Atheist: “Someone who believes and proclaims God, but their life reflects as if God doesn’t exist.”
- 1 Corinthians 10:31 *“Whatever you do, do all for the glory of God.”*

Ways to Please God :

1. Bear fruit in every good work | v.10

- James 2:26 “Faith without works is dead...”
- Galatians 5:22-23 *“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”*
- Ephesians 2:10 *“¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”*
- There is no part of life that is excluded from the call to please God by bearing fruit.

2. Increase in the knowledge of God | v.10

- The original word here can be taken in two ways, “growing in knowledge,” or “growing by knowledge.” Both great things for the believer!
- To know God is to know God’s Word... To know God’s Word is to know God.
- “Churches and Christian’s are starving spiritually, while overdosing on entertainment.”

3. Be strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might | v.11

- The power of God [1 Corinthians 2:5; Ephesians 1:19]
- This word “might” refers to God’s mighty ruling power over the whole universe. God and his amazing power are the source of your strength, so you will never run out of the power you need to live this life that is worthy of God.
- Paul experienced God’s strength in his own life [Philippians. 4:13]
- Paul identified God’s power with the working of the Spirit in the inner man [Ephesians. 3:16]
- Paul describes the greatness of God’s power [Ephesians 3:20]

4. Give Thanks to the Father | vv.12-14

- Who has...
 - Qualified us to share in his inheritance.
 - Delivered us from the domain of darkness.
 - Transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved son.
 - Redeemed us, bought our freedom from sin and judgement.
 - Forgiveness all our sins.
- Tim Keller *“It’s one thing to be grateful. It’s another to give thanks. Gratitude is what you feel. Thanksgiving is what you do.”*

Reflection Questions:

- 1) What areas of your life needs the direction of God's knowledge and will?
Ask God to help you know and do his will.
- 2) What areas of your life are not honoring or pleasing God right now?
Acknowledge and confess these things to God.
- 3) What areas of your life are difficult, challenging, confusing, or uncertain right now?
Ask God for His wisdom and power to strengthen as you endure and as he sustains you.
- 4) "Gratitude is what you feel. Thanksgiving is what you do."
If you are in Christ, take a moment to thank God for the blessings you have and will have because of what Jesus has done for you.

If you are not a Christian, Pray, that the mercy and grace of God would open your eyes to see, your mind to understand, and heart to receive who He is and the gift of salvation he offers through his Son, Jesus Christ. (I'd love to talk and pray with you after the service)!