

THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST

The Fullness of Deity Dwelling in Christ

A Life That Bears Eternal Fruit

Colossians 1: 10

Introduction: As we progress in our study of Paul's prayer it is interesting to note that he explains why he is praying the way he is; in other words, he has a definite goal in mind. He continues his prayer by saying, *So that....* Paul knows that if his primary intercession is accomplished in the lives of the Colossians there will be a practical result. It is this outcome that we will consider in this study.

I. So that you may walk...

- A. The goal of spiritual knowledge is to produce Godly behavior.
- B. God is never interested in merely informing us (so that we become educated)—knowledge is always intended to transform thoughts/behavior; to inform and influence our choices. (1Timothy 6:17-21, 2Timothy 3:16-17)
 1. Therefore, nothing in God's Word is merely information—there is always a point that is ultimately intended to guide our choices resulting in Godly actions.
 2. God does not reveal Himself or His truth to those who are merely curious (the wise and prudent of this age); He does not need to keep company with the educated elite—He prefers the humble. (See I Cor. 1:18-31)
 3. Never forget that the Tree of Knowledge was desirable to make us wise.

II. In a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects...

- A. Paul's aim in his prayer includes a life that is glorifying to God. Looking at the whole of this verse we could put this simply by saying: *To know Him and to make Him known.*
- B. To walk worthily and to please Him is to love Him, bring Him joy AND it calls attention to His Character and Presence within our lives. In other words, it brings Him glory and brings us great joy in His Presence.

III. Bearing fruit in every good work...

- A. It is possible to do good work (deeds) that does not bear fruit. It is possible to grow absolutely weary with well doing and to have nothing of eternal value to show for it.
- B. To walk worthy of the Lord in a pleasing way is to be Spirit filled and Spirit led—*If you abide in Me and I abide in you, you will bear much fruit* (naturally). (John 15:5)

IV. And Increasing in the (real) knowledge of God...

- A. This journey of fruitful walking according to spiritual wisdom and understanding results in a deeper knowledge of God gained through that experience.
- B. This is not mere intellectual knowledge (information, theological truth) but an experiential knowledge of Who God is and His ways of working.
- C. *That I may know Him* is Paul's passion in life. We do not gain that knowledge by studying only, but by walking with Him every day and coming to know Him personally and intimately.

Conclusion: A global perspective of the will of God combined with spiritual wisdom and understanding should have a transformational result: a life that is pleasing to God and naturally bearing eternal fruit; a life that is truly worthy of the Lord. Such a life will inevitably result in an ever deeper personal knowledge of God because it can only be achieved by Him and through Him and with Him every moment of every day. Do you feel that you know God on a personal level? Does the prospect of seeing Him face to face give you joy, uncertainty, or dread? If not joy, what needs to change in your life?

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, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light. For He rescued 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. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Colossians 1: 9-15
(NASB)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.) Describe the desire we all have for knowledge and explain some of the dangers that go with it.
- 2.) Explain how Bible believing Christians, even pastors and seminary professors, can live their whole life without ever truly knowing God and having a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Do you believe this is even possible? Consider James 2:19—Who believes that every word of the Bible is true but will spend eternity in hell?
- 3.) Why does God give us so much information? (There are 1,189 chapters in the Bible containing 31,173 verses which have a total of 807,361 words. It took 40 inspired human authors 1,600 years to write it.)
- 4.) In what way does knowing God and making Him known glorify Him? Explain in even more depth how God is glorified. Consider John 15 in your response.
- 5.) If branches could talk, how do you think one would describe the effort to produce fruit if it had become cut off from the vine? By comparison, if branches could talk, how do you think one would describe its experience of producing fruit while connected to the vine?
- 6.) How do you go about getting to know someone new? A new friend, or someone you just met at a social event? Would you say that you knew someone after an hour? What would it take to get to know someone really well, someone like a best friend, a spouse, or your own child? Reflect on your answers and then explain what you think might be involved in getting to know God really, really well.

NOTES
