

Living Christ

Wisdom – Will – Worth. Part II

Colossians 1:9-14

Overview: Paul's prayer for the Colossian faith community communicates assurance that ministry is being accomplished within the will of God, with wisdom because of their worth as a people made in the image of God.

Outline:

Paul's Prayer – Colossians 1:9-14

God's Will & Wisdom – Colossians 1:9

The Application of His Will and Wisdom in our lives – Colossians 1:10,11

- To walk Worthy.
- To bear fruit.
- To grow in the knowledge of God.
- To be strengthened according to His glorious might.
- To be resilient, joyfully.

This study uses the WISDOM acronym:

W – What is the main point, or key thought, and we work the issue

I – Investigate the scriptures. Study God's word.

S – Seek counsel from other sources, voices and articles.

D – Develop a response. The best response is a written one because there is many a slip from the mind to the pen.

O - Openly discuss your study with others; this is especially valuable in a small group or learning community setting.

M - Move to action. This is where we apply what we have learned to our lives. It is in application that we find that God's word is indeed living and active. And transformation occurs as the heart is impacted.

Please note: *This is a study guide, which means that you are responsible for your own interpretation of the Bible. We need to walk in the truth therefore: It's you, the Holy Spirit and the Scripture in the interpretation process. Try not to relinquish your personal study to reading and repeating commentaries, check in with them as resource to make sure that your interpretation is not way off.*

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Overview: Paul's prayer for the Colossian faith community communicates assurance that ministry is being accomplished within the will of God, with wisdom because of their worth as a people made in the image of God.

Pay attention to the importance of prayer. Paul and Epaphras are struggling/wrestling (agon – the greek root word – for agony. Jesus in Matt 26:37-41) in prayer.

Please note: This study is very similar to last week's study as we did finish the message.

Outline:

Paul's Prayer – Colossians 1:9-14

1. God's Will & Wisdom – Colossians 1:9

2. The Application of His Will and Wisdom in our lives – Colossians 1:10,11

- To walk Worthy.
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W [What is the issue] In reading the scripture the objective here is to determine the main point or points that Paul is trying to make.

Read *Colossians 1:9-14*

Ask yourself questions while discovering the main points in this text:

Ask the Who What Why When Where and the So what [what difference does this make – or it's the application question] questions to discover the main issue or issues that are in this text. Command to obey; doctrine to understand; life in the church to live out; and application (to myself) to apply.

Write down your questions...as you write, clarity regarding the text of scripture will emerge.

In reading the overview, develop your own questions to discuss:

Some suggested questions:

- Discuss the importance and value of prayer.
- What are some of the elements of this prayer? And how can we use this model when we pray for others?
- How does one discern God's will? (some insight is given in this study)
- Is there a difference between God's wisdom and secular wisdom?
- Identify the goals of Paul's prayer for the Colossian church family. (see outline)
- Why is Paul sharing these goals for these brethren and how do they relate to us?

I Investigating Scripture: Read Colossians 1:9-14

God's Will & Wisdom – Colossians 1:9

1:9 – we heard about you (all) – Paul and his team heard about their faith, hope and love from its founder, Epaphras (Col. 1:7-8).

1:9 - have not ceased praying for you: This requires an intentional mind set of God being ever present. (1 Thess 5:17) and a people awareness (Eph 6:18).

Two aspects in Paul's prayer life – love for God and love for people and a disregard of who gets the credit as long as God is glorified.

1:9 Paul's primary requests:

Be filled with the knowledge of His will – Knowledge is key theme in Paul's life, ministry and this theme infects all his writing (1 Cor 1:5; Eph 1:17; Phil 1:9). In Colossians read Col 2:2,3 and 3:10.

A warning from Corinthians 14:20, "Brothers and sisters do not be children in your thinking. Instead, be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature."

Paul and Epaphras's journey of prayer – Col 2:1 & Col 4:12

What we think we become – knowledge helps us think God's thoughts.

God's will:

1. That we are saved (1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9)
2. Be filled with the Spirit (Eph 5:17,18)
3. To be Holy (1 Pet 1:15; 1 Thess 4:3)
4. Be submissive (1 Pet 2:13,15)
5. Suffer for doing good (1 Pet 4:19)
6. Give thanks in all circumstances (1 Thess 5:17)

The Application of His Will and Wisdom in our lives – Colossians 1:10,11

1:10a To walk Worthy – walk in scripture refers to an individual's day to day lifestyle. A person controlled by wisdom and knowledge results in a life that is walking worthy of Jesus.

A few scriptures verses referring to a worthy walk:

1. Walk in humility (Eph 4:1-3)
2. Walk in purity (Rom 13:13)
3. Being content (1 Cor 7:17)
4. Walk by faith (2 Cor 5:7)
5. Walk in good works (Eph 2:10)
6. Walk different from the world (Eph 5:15)
7. Walk in love (Eph 5:2)
8. Walk in light (Eph 5:8)
9. Walk in wisdom (Eph 5:15)
10. Walk in truth (Jn 8 :31,32; 3 Jn 3,4)

1:10b –To bear fruit. Scripture defines bearing fruit in many ways.

Two passages John 15:1-12 & gal 5:22,23 read and understand Gal 5:19-21

Realize that Gal 5:22,23 is the outcome of Jn 15;1-12 and a good understanding of Jn 15 is connected to a worthy walk!

Every believer is called to bear much fruit and by this the Father is glorified (Jn 15:8).

Fruit comes from abiding in Christ (Jn 15:4,5)

1:10c – To grow in the knowledge of God.

Marks by which we will know that we are growing:

1. A growing love for God's word (Ps 119:97)

2. Greater obedience (Jn 14:21)
3. A growing faith (Heb 11:6)
4. A love for one another (Phil 1:9)

1:11a – To be strengthened according to His glorious might.

God's power is manifested in us through the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Rm 15:13). The Greek word is *dunamoumenoi* and is a present participle implying continuous action.

1:11b – To be resilient, joyfully.

To be resilient we need to be patient and steadfast. The Lord's knowledge and wisdom provides us the ability to endure trials, suffering and circumstances. We do not grit our teeth and endure but are joyful. *Meta charis* with joy.

Knowledge of God's truth gives us the ability to endure trials joyously, as did Paul.

S Consult other sources

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

A. Prayer is significant because of Jesus' example

1. Personal prayer, Mark 1:35; Luke 3:21; 6:12; 9:29; 22:31-46
2. Model Prayer, Matt. 6:5-13; Luke 11:2-4

B. Prayer is putting into action our belief in a personal, caring God who is present, willing, and able to act on our behalf and others, through prayer.

C. God has personally committed to respond to the prayer of believers (James 4:2)

D. A purpose of prayer is our time with God.

E. The scope of prayer is anything or anyone that concerns believers. We may pray once, or many times regarding the same request as He brings it to mind.

F. Prayer can involve several elements

1. praise and adoration of the Triune God

2. thanksgiving to God for His presence, fellowship, and provisions
3. confession of our sinfulness, both past and present
4. petition of our sensed needs or desires
5. intercession where we hold the needs of others before the Father

Old Testament

1. Some examples of intercessory prayer:

a. Abraham pleading for Sodom, Gen. 18:22

b. Moses' prayers for Israel

(1) Exodus 5:22-23

(2) Exodus 32:9-14,31-35

(3) Exodus 33:12-16

(4) Exodus 34:9

(5) Deuteronomy 9:18,25-29

c. Samuel prays for Israel

(1) 1 Samuel 7:5-6,8-9

(2) 1 Samuel 12:16-23

(3) 1 Samuel 15:11

d. David for his child, 2 Samuel 12:16-18

2. God is looking for intercessors, Isaiah 59:16

3. Known, unconfessed sin or an unrepentant attitude affects our prayers

a. Psalm 66:18

b. Proverbs 28:9

c. Isaiah 59:1-2; 64:7

B. New Testament

1. The Son and Spirit's intercessory ministry

a. Jesus

(1) Romans 8:34

(2) Hebrews 7:25

(3) 1 John 2:1

b. Holy Spirit, Romans 8:26-27

2. Paul's intercessory ministry

a. Prays for the Jews

(1) Romans 9:1

(2) Romans 10:1

b. Prays for the churches

(1) Romans 1:9

(2) Ephesians 1:16

(3) Philippians 1:3-4,9

(4) Colossians 1:3,9

(5) 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

(6) 2 Thessalonians 1:11

(7) 2 Timothy 1:3

(8) Philemon, v. 4

c. Paul asked the churches for prayer

(1) Romans 15:30

(2) 2 Corinthians 1:11

(3) Ephesians 6:19

(4) Colossians 4:3

(5) 1 Thessalonians 5:25

(6) 2 Thessalonians 3:1

3. The church's prayer ministry

a. Pray for one another

(1) Ephesians 6:18

(2) 1 Timothy 2:1

(3) James 5:16

b. General Prayer topics

(1) our enemies, Matt. 5:44

(2) Christian workers, Hebrews 13:18

(3) rulers, 1 Timothy 2:2

(4) the sick, James 5:13-16

(5) backsliders, 1 John 5:16

III. Conditions for answered prayer

A. Our relationship to Christ and the Spirit

1. Abide in Him, John 15:7

2. In His name, John 14:13,14; 15:16; 16:23-24

3. In the Spirit, Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20

4. According to God's will, Matthew 6:10; 1 John 3:22; 5:14-15

B. Motivation

1. Not wavering, Matthew 21:22; James 1:6-7

2. Humility and repentance, Luke 18:9-14

3. Asking wrongly, James 4:3

4. Selfishness, James 4:2-3

C. Other areas

1. Perseverance

a. Luke 18:1-8

b. Colossians 4:2

2. Keep on asking

a. Matthew 7:7-8

b. Luke 11:5-13

c. James 1:5

3. Discord at home, 1 Peter 3:7

4. Free from known sin

a. Psalm 66:18

b. Proverbs 28:9

c. Isaiah 59:1-2

d. Isaiah 64:7

IV. Conclusions

A. A privilege and responsibility

B. Jesus is our example, the Holy Spirit is our guide.

C. We can change our families, our groups, our church family, our world!

O [openly discuss] After we have our written response this is where we interact with our community or connect group and learn from one another. Share openly and honestly what our Lord has taught you from scripture. Your understanding may change as a result of your discussion with others. Let the Holy Spirit lead and be open to learn from one another. It is an amazing experience as the Spirit of the Lord shows up in our discussion and lives are touched and changed.

M [Move to action.] Apply God's word to your life, this where transformation occurs as the Spirit of God moves in your life and you respond to His prompting. This is where the heart connects with the head and the hands. Without application we will gain knowledge and remember what the apostle Paul says, 'Knowledge puffs up but love builds up.'

My personal application: {write it down and share it with someone who will hold you accountable}.

An application to ponder:

A fruitful life is a life well lived. A life well lived is one that honors God and is evidenced by knowledge, wisdom and a worthy walk with Jesus.