

Paul's Prayers 4 - Colossians

● *For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. Col. 1:9-13*

Since the Day We Heard It

- What did Paul Hear?
- *We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of **your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints**; 5 because of **the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, Col. 1:3-8***

Since the Day we Heard It

- What had Paul Heard?
- *6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit and increasing, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, 8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. Col. 1:3-8*

Since the day we heard it

- What he had heard about the saints:
- your faith in Christ 1:4
- love you have toward all the saints 1:4
- motivation (hope laid up in the heavens) 1:5
- gospel has come to you 1:6
- Knew the grace of God in truth 1:6
- bearing fruit and increasing in you 1:6
- Your love in the Spirit. 1:8

Could Paul say that of us?

These are goals to Strive For!!!

To Pray for You and Ask that You

- *may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;*
- 1. They needed to Know God's Will
- 2. With all wisdom
- 3. With all spiritual understanding

Filled with Knowledge of His Will

- God's advice to Joshua:

- *Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Josh 1:8*

Filled with Knowledge of His Will

- *Happy is the man who finds wisdom, and the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, and her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, and all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, in her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. Pr 3:13-17*

In all Spiritual Wisdom & Understanding

- Knowing God's will is the first part.
- *add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 2 Peter 1:5-7*
- After we learn God's will we must have the wisdom and understanding to make the changes that will move us from knowing to action.

In all Spiritual Wisdom & Understanding

- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ... but the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. James 3:13-16; 17-18*

To Walk Worthy of the Lord

- *that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

“axios, ... a. weighing, having weight; having the weight of (weighing as much as) another thing, of like value, worth as much:..” (Thayer, p 52-53; 514)



axios properly, “bringing up the other beam of the scales,”
“bringing into equilibrium,” and therefore “equivalent”...
The use of axios... shows that two distinct magnitudes are
equal or equivalent...” (Kittel, TDTNT, Vol 1; p. 379-380)



Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

- Two very important figures for a Christian
- *By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. Jn. 15:8-9*
- *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Eph. 2:10*

Summing up the Prayer thus far

- To know the will of God **MUST** lead one **to do** the will of God,
- to do the will of God **MUST** lead to **being worthy** of the Lord,
- being worthy of the Lord **MUST** lead to **being pleasing** to him,
- being pleasing to Him **MUST** lead us to **bearing fruit** in **every good work**.

Increasing in the Knowledge of God

- **Increasing** – used to describe how plants and children grow.
- Once we learn we continue in two directions:
- 1st Use knowledge as foundation to build more knowledge.
- 2nd Using Knowledge to become what God wants us to be. Application

Increasing in the Knowledge of God

● *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but **I press on**, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call** of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, **as many as are mature, have this mind**; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind. Phil 3:12-16*

Strengthened with all Power(*dunamoo*)

- At this point we may feel overwhelmed. How can we do all this?
- Finally, my brethren, **be strong in the Lord** and in **the power of His might**. Eph. 6:10-11
- For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when **you received the word of God** which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, **which also effectively works in you who believe**. 1 Th. 2:13-14

Strengthened with all Power(*dunamoo*)

- *For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isa 55:10-11*

According to the Might of His Glory

- *Now unto him that is **able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think**, according to the power that works in us, Eph. 3:20*
- *the **exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe**, according to the working of His mighty power Eph. 1:19*
- *I can do all things in him that strengthens me. Phil. 4:13*