

## **Weekly Lesson Theme: Being An Authentic Church**

**Lesson Scriptures:** Colossians 1:9-14, 21-29

**Key Lesson Theme:** "Growing In Christ"

**Today's Lesson:** Tuesday, April 23

**Podcast Version:** [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

### **Colossians 1:9-14**

9 For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully

12 giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

13 He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

14 In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### **Commentary**

**We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.** Paul knew that their spiritual depth made them ripe for a satanic attack and that they would become the targets of the false teachers who had infiltrated the church. Therefore, he prayed the Colossians would continue to know—*be filled with the knowledge of—God's will*. God's *will* refers to the purpose, choice, desire, and pleasure of God. His will has been revealed; it is not something to be "found." It is something to be learned and acted upon with *all wisdom* (this is the knowing

part) and *spiritual understanding* (this is the practical application part). Neither of those things is the product of human faculty alone—though that does not mean we put our minds in neutral. Both are *spiritual* outcomes. They come out of the believer's submission to the Spirit. Submission to the Spirit includes all that makes us who we are—body, mind, spirit. Partial submission is not submission.

**Being strengthened with all power.** Knowing the Lord more intimately will lead to being *strengthened* by Him. The measure and the standard of spiritual strength is not our ability to sustain ourselves in difficult or perilous times. It is our reliance on His enabling ability **so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully.** *Endurance* denotes steadfastness and stability while pursuing a worthy goal. Living in a manner that is becoming to the Lord will sometimes be a path filled with obstacles. One is to endure those challenges while continuing to move forward in the faith. Endurance and patience can be faced *joyfully* when faced with the strength that comes from the Lord. Joy is not equated to happiness. We are happy when things go well. We are joyful even when the circumstances are not because our joy is in knowing the constancy of the presence of the Lord Christ no matter what.

**Giving thanks to the Father.** In a sense Paul has come full circle. He began his prayer with gratitude to God for what Paul knew about the faith, love, and hope of the Colossians (Col. 1:3-4). Now he prayed they would join in *giving thanks to the Father* themselves. All who are holy unto the Lord shall be partakers, or share, in the *inheritance* God the Father has for His children by faith in Christ, who gives us the light of truth and life. The NIV reads, "Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light." That is something to be grateful for!

### **What are some lasting truths that come from Colossians 1:9-14?**

- While we are to pray for the many needs that others have, don't overlook praying for their spiritual growth as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Spiritual growth is a product of submitting to the grace of God. Our greatest joy as believers comes in knowing and doing the will of God.
- Those who live in Christ can share in His glorious blessing both now and in eternity.

Until tomorrow Saints...  
Every day is Sunday