

"Filled with the 1Knowledge of God"

Colossians 1:9-13

Theme: True knowledge leads to Holiness.

Topic: Since the Gospel had taken root in the Colossians (1:3-8) Paul's prayer is that they would continue to grow in it.

1. Be filled (*pleroo* - "make full/complete" "to fill a vessel or hollow place".) (vs. 9)

- A. I.e., You're not full yet! (*You need to keep growing!*)
 - I. The Gospel works an "already, not yet" state in us. It let's us know we have been filled (justified) and at the same time it hollows us out (empties us) of the self-life to be filled with Christlikeness (sanctification).
- B. The Gospel of Jesus instills a GROWTH-URGE in people that's insatiable.

Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. - 1 Thessalonians 4:1

- C. Many don't have the growth-urge in them. (*Very little transformation after salvation.*)
 - I. Frankly, it makes us question their walk.
 - a.) You're not a Christian because you said a prayer at church camp one day.
 - b.) You're not a Christian because you've been baptized.
 - c.) You're not a Christian because you cried at that retreat and had a goose bump experience.
 - II. You know you're a Christian when your life is about living out what the Bible says as best as you can.

By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. - 1 John 2:3-4

- D. Paul gets really frustrated with Christians who aren't growing.

And I could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to infants in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. - 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

- I. His attitude was to press on.

Not that I have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. - Philippians 3:12-14

- E. **Are you a growing Christian?**

2. Be filled with what? ("*with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding*") (vs. 9)

- A. Knowledge - *epignosis* "to know by experience".
 - I. What does God want/desire in each and every area of my life?
 - a.) Vs. what the world, the flesh, and the devil want in these areas.
- B. As you are filled more and more with the epignosis of God's will in each area of your life, and as it takes over your mind so as to effect your actions, you grow (your are sanctified).

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, His good, pleasing, and perfect will. - Romans 12:2

- I. So transformation happens in your mind and directly correlates to God's will and the knowing of it.

- C. To use epignosis correctly the believer needs spiritual wisdom and understanding.
 - A. The Holy Spirit wants to teach you wisdom (*sophia* - "skill or expertise in handling life's affairs")
 - B. The Holy Spirit wants to teach you understanding (*sunesis* - "being able to take all the sophia you have and make it work right together.")
- D. So, Paul wants them to grow (be filled) by learning what God wants (His will) and being able to implement that will skillfully (*sophia*) and practically (understanding) in everyday life.
 - I. This is what a wise person is, broken down into the simplest of statements.
 - II. It is opposed to the head-wisdom and head-knowledge the false teachers at Colossae had brought in.
 - a.) Nearly all false teachers appear wise. They are usually sociopaths who are able to speak a certain way or hold themselves a certain way; but they know nothing of the true knowledge of God.
- E. **Is your knowledge of God doing anything in your everyday life? (Are you growing more skilled in handling all the different areas of your life?)**

3. Why? ("so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.") (vs. 10a)

- A. Many who have believed the Gospel do not walk in a manner worthy of it. (*They live any way they want. The different areas of their lives are not being sanctified because of a lack of spiritual intimacy with God.*)
- B. **How do I walk in a manner worthy of the Lord?**
 - I. It takes "*pleasing Him in all respects.*" **(vs. 10b)**
 - a.) Beware of compartmentalizing your faith.
 - b.) Give over every area of your life to Christ for sanctification.)
 - II. It takes "*bearing fruit in every good work.*" **(vs. 10c)**
 - a.) There's nothing I do that shouldn't be for Christ and the Gospel.
 - b.) Give over all the work you do for the Glory of God.
 - III. It takes "*increasing in the knowledge of God.*" **(vs. 10d)**
 - a.) Study the character and nature of God. (*Theology Proper*)
 - b.) Read books on the attributes of God like "Knowledge of the Holy".
 - IV. It takes learning to suffer well **(vs. 11)**.
 - a.) I need pain in order to practice living according to God's power.
 - b.) I need to suffer sometimes in order to learn steadfastness (endurance) & patience (long-suffering).
 - c.) I need to hurt periodically so that I don't forget who I ultimately am in Christ. **(vs.11b-13)**

Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18