



# Colossians 1:9-14

*Colossians 1:9-14*

## APPLICATION

Hands of grace next weekend

livestream first service

communion

## BIBLE PASSAGE

### Colossians 1:9-14 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>9</sup> 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;

<sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

<sup>11</sup> strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

<sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

---

## INTRO

As we began our journey through Colossians last week, we saw the heart of Paul the servant, Paul the Apostle, and Paul the Pastor.

- As is common, Paul begins the letter with an open prayer for the church which is layered in rich truth about what God has done for us and what we are called to do for him. In many ways, the prayer serves as an outline for the rest of the letter that discusses who Jesus is and our identity as we become new and complete in Him.

Before we break down the second half of Paul's prayer, we need to understand Paul's writing style.

- Paul is the king of runnon sentences. At a quick glance, it might just sound as though Paul is writing some Christianease and cliché, feel-good statements to get the politics niceties out of the way.
- But when you realize that Paul is actually building a layered structure, that if understood and unpacked, actually provides an outline for the entire Christian life. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, says more in one sentence than some people an pack into entire books.

I diagramed out verses 9-14 to it's core principles that may make understanding the long sentence structure a bit more palatable.

- **Slide 1** - Understanding God's will and possessing spiritual wisdom and understanding have intended outcomes. this is essential to understand, becasue we can tend to start at "I want to know God's will," but unintentionally turn that into a self-centered motive. So Paul tells us why it's so important to know God's will with spiritual wisdom and understanding, lays out five outcomes or overflows that come out of being aware of God's will: Walk worthy of the Lord, fully please the Lord, fruitfulness in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with patience and joy by His might.
  - The overflow of those things is living a life of thanfulness to the Lord for four main reasons: He's qualified, delivered, conveyed, and redeemed us.

- **Slide 2** - another aspect of this prayer is the differentiation Paul makes between our part in living out our identity, and God part if doing what we could never do so that we might live in His will.

# 1 The Reception of God's Will

## BIBLE PASSAGE

### Colossians 1:9-11 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>9</sup> 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;

<sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

<sup>11</sup> strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

## A. THE GOSPEL OPENS OUR SPIRITUAL EYES TO GOD'S WILL (9)

I'll make a statement that some of you may not believe: **"It is God's desire for you to know His will."**

Sometimes, I think we view God as someone hiding from us the things that He desires for our lives.

- Don't misunderstand. There are parts of God's will for our lives and for the world that we may want to know but are intentionally hidden from us either because God, in His

perfect timing, has chosen not to reveal it yet, or because it's not something we need to know.

- **EXAMPLE: [Act 1:6-8 NKJV] 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**
- **QUESTION:** Did Jesus reveal His will to the disciples? YES. You shall receive power and be my witnesses. But did he reveal the part of His will that the disciples wanted to know? NO. He revealed what they needed to know in order to stay focused on what Jesus was desiring to accomplish.
- Here, Paul tells us that we should be "filled" with the "knowledge" of His will.
  - **FILLED - To be filled to the brim, completely full.**
  - **KNOWLEDGE - A precise and correct knowledge.** Not simply to have an intellectual understanding, but making sure you have the correct target.
- God wants you to be so full of the precise and correct knowledge of what He desires from you that there is no room for doubt, fear, or uncertainty.

So Josh, why do I so frequently feel in the dark, uncertain, or unstable? Because your focusing on what you don't know rather than what's already been clearly made available to you. God is not always going to lay out his entire plan for our lives in a nice step-by-step program. Many times for us His will is unfolding, which means it must be continuously pursued and sought after. This keeps us dependent on Him and walking in faith. The second step is often not revealed until after you've taken the first step.

- **Example: ABRAHAM** - God to a land I will show you... (Gen. 12:1)
- **EXAMPLE: Acts 8:** Phillip was part of a great outpouring of salvation and God's Spirit. The next thing you know, God tells him to go to Gaza in the middle of the desert. There are no further instructions or reasons given, just go to the middle of the desert. He gets there and sees a chariot, and the second instruction comes: "Go join yourself with the chariot."
  - See, this is one of the reasons Paul says that God's will is directly paired with wisdom and spiritual understanding. Many times, God's will might kick against our natural understanding or our carnal desires. To accept God's will means looking at things from a spiritual perspective, not merely carnal or physical.
- Also, consider this: Why would God reveal His unknown will to me if I'm not obeying His known will? In other words, there are already things that we KNOW from scripture

are His will for us, and if we refuse to heed those things, we should not expect to get God's leading for the rest of our lives.

- Sadly, many people view God's will as a **cryptic treasure map** full of signs and symbols that have to be deciphered in order to be understood. Some people are more driven to try and discover God's will based on mystical signs than they are by simply reading and seeking to understand His word.
- **"Never trade what you don't know for what you know." -Pastor Chuck Smith**

**So let's start at just the most basic levels of God's will. What do we KNOW god's will is, and how can we master it?**

- **1 Thess. 4:3-8 - Sexual purity -**
  - **[1Th 4:3-5 NKJV] 3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; 4 that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, 5 not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;**
- **1 Thess. 5:16-18 - Rejoicing, praying, and giving of thanks**
  - **[1Th 5:12-18 NKJV] 12 And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, 13 and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves. 14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. 15 See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.**
- **1 Peter 2:15 - Doing good to silence foolish accusations**
  - **[1Pe 2:15 NKJV] 15 For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men--**
- **1 Peter 4:2-3 - No longer live according to sinful desires of the flesh**
  - **[1Pe 4:2-3 NKJV] 2 that he no longer should live the rest of [his] time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God. 3 For we [have spent] enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries.**
- **Ephesians 5:17-18 - to redeem the time in these evil days**

- **[Eph 5:15-17 NKJV] 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.**

As we obey what we know, we become spiritually in tune with the more nuanced leading of the Holy Spirit. How did Paul know where to go and when to go? How did John know what to say and when to say it? How did James and Peter know what to say at the Jerusalem Council? I believe that because they stayed close to Jesus in what they knew, their spiritual perception was keen and focused.

- **EXAMPLE:** You and my wife have something in common. You both know what I chose to tell you. The difference? I tell my wife things I would never tell you. Why? Because I have an intimate and close relationship with her that I could never have with anyone else.
- Christians, the closer you walk with Jesus, the clearer His voice will become.

#### QUOTE

**“The greater the obedience, the greater the intimacy. The greater the intimacy, the greater the understanding!”**

## 2 The Responsibility of Knowing God's Will

#### QUOTE

**“Misconceptions about God's will can develop the more we place ourselves at the center of the story.**

- For many, knowing God's will has become more about what they want to do rather than what God is doing; it's more about the external factors of their life rather than the internal work of who God wants them to become.

## 1. God's Will as a Personal Shopping List

- **Misconception:** God's will revolves around giving us what we desire—whether that's material possessions, ideal life circumstances, or fulfilling our personal dreams.
- **Contrast:** While God does provide for His children (Philippians 4:19), His primary concern is our holiness and relationship with Him, not our comfort or accumulation of things (1 Peter 1:15-16).

## 2. God's Will as a Roadmap for Individual Happiness

- **Misconception:** God's will exists solely to make us happy or ensure a trouble-free life.
- **Contrast:** God is far more interested in our joy in Him (Psalm 16:11) than in fleeting happiness. Trials and suffering often play a crucial role in shaping us into the image of Christ - [1Pe 1:6-7 NKJV] **6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...**

## 3. God's Will as a License for Self-Focus

- **Misconception:** God's will is primarily about me—my fulfillment, my calling, my gifts, my purpose.
- **Contrast:** God's will ultimately focuses on His glory and His purposes, which often calls us to lay down our wills and lives for the sake of Him and others.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

**Col 1:10 NKJV - that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

**Col 1:11 NKJV - strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;**

## THE OUTCOME OF GOD'S WILL

The purpose of knowing God's will is that:

- **I HONOR the Lord (walking worthy)**
- **I PLEASE the Lord**
- **I SERVE the Lord (fruitful in every good work)**
- **I KNOW the Lord (increasing in the knowledge of God)**
- **I'M STRONG in the Lord**

As Paul continues his prayer for the believers, notice two things: He uses the active voice for these two verses & he uses all-encompassing terms:

- Active voice - It's something we are to pursue actively.
- Notice the all-encompassing words: Fully, every, and all. What does this imply? **That Jesus deserves nothing less than all I have to give in my pursuit of living out His will.**

### **Walk Worthy of the Lord**

- Not that we are trying to become worthy, but we want to represent the name of Jesus and our calling well to those who are watching.
- **ANALOGY: Walking worthy of the Lord is kind of like being a soldier in uniform—you don't just represent yourself, you represent something much bigger. Soldiers are taught that their conduct, whether on duty or grabbing a burger at the local diner, reflects on their entire unit and country. You'll never see a Marine in full dress blues cutting in line at Chick-fil-A—because they know their actions carry weight. In the same way, as Christians, we wear the name of Christ. Whether we're at church, at work, or stuck in traffic trying *not* to sanctify the driver in front of us, we represent Jesus. Walking worthy means we live in a way that honors Him—not just when it's easy, but in every part of life.**

### **Fully pleasing Him:**

- Our attitude should not be, **"God exists to fully please me,"** but rather, **"I exist to fully please and glorify him."**
  - I am not my own, I've been bought with a price...
- I'm convinced that Christians who understand their identity in Christ and grasp the fullness of what He's done for them don't need more religious rules to follow. Rules



are for those who are not internally motivated because they have still not realized who Jesus is and what He's done.

- When you love someone, you don't want to please them out of **duty**, but rather **desire**.
  - **Those with a purely religious-based relationship with Christ hear "fully please Him" and ask, "Oh, great, what do I have to give up now as part of my duty?"**
  - **Those who are living in the life of the gospel and the power of the Spirit hear it and ask, " Oh Great! What can I lay on the altar to become more like Christ?"**

**Fruitful in every good work:** In other words, your Christian life has a purpose to glorify God through obedient actions.

- Being fruitful means that there is intentionality and purpose behind what we do in this life.
- **[Eph 2:10 NKJV] 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**

### **Increasing in the knowledge of God**

- I hate to break it to you, but you and I DON'T know everything there is to know about God!
- 1 Peter tells us that we must constantly add to our faith. The Christian life is a constant process of growing, building, and learning.
  - If you find yourself bored with God, it's not because you've figured it all out. It's not because God is small that your finite brain has already discovered everything about Him. It's because It's time for you to go to the next level, and your flesh isn't sure if it wants to take that step.
- **EXAMPLE: This evening, there will be plenty of people increasing their knowledge of the Chiefs and Bills, and do it with enthusiasm!**

**Strengthened with all might according to HIS power for all patience and longsuffering with joy.**

God is strong enough to give you the strength you need to find endurance and joy through every trial.

- Finding Patience, perseverance, and joy in the midst of trials and suffering is possible only through God's grace and the Holy Spirit's supply of His strength.

**[Jas 1:2-4 NKJV] [2] My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, [3] knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. [4] But let patience have its**

**perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

### 3 The Outcomes of the Gospel

#### BIBLE PASSAGE

#### Colossians 1:12-14 (NKJV - New King James Version)

<sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

<sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

#### A.) THROUGH THE GOSPEL, GOD HAS QUALIFIED US

But it's the kind of qualified, like my daughter, who is qualified to catch fish, but only really because Grandpa, the seasoned fisherman, caught it for her.

The next time someone asks you why you're going to heaven, you can biblically answer that it's because you're qualified. Just don't forget to add that you are not qualified based on your own merit or performance but by the perfect life and sacrifice of Jesus.

Qualified – hikanoō (he-ka-na-o) – to make sufficient, render fit.

By nature, we are not fit for heaven, but God has made us fit for heaven by cleansing us of our sins through His sacrifice on the cross.

**[Rom 8:3 NKJV] [3] For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh...**

## B.) THROUGH THE GOSPEL, GOD HAS DELIVERED US

**Col 1:13 NKJV - He has delivered us from the power of darkness...**

Our inheritance might be with the saints in the light, but this world is still full of powerful darkness!

***“There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan.” (C.S. Lewis)***

- ***But the Holy Spirit tells us, "greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world!"***
- The power of darkness has no power against the all-powerful God of light.

Has – past tense. This was done the moment we placed our faith in Christ. Power is something that has control over someone. You and I were under the control of darkness; moral darkness, mental darkness, and spiritual darkness. But because of Jesus, you've been free!

***Lies have no more power to deceive you, sin has no more power to control you, fear has no more power to disable you, and death has no more power to defeat you!***

**[Eph 5:8-14 NKJV] [8] For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light [9] (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), [10] finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. [11] And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. [12] For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. [13] But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. [14] Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."**

### C.) THROUGH THE GOSPEL, GOD HAS CONVEYED US

and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

**Conveyed had a special significance in the ancient world.** When one empire conquered another, the custom was to take the population of the defeated empire and transfer it lock, stock, and barrel to the conqueror's land. It is in this that Paul says we have been conveyed into God's kingdom. Everything we have, everything we are now, belongs to Him. He has transplanted our identity into a new kingdom.

In other words, Christ's work is a COMPLETE work. He didn't simply open the prison doors and let us out to be independent, autonomous creatures. **He delivered us out of the prison cell and then led us into a kingdom. We are still subjects to a king, but instead of that king being sin, self, and Satan, now the king is Jesus.**

### D.) THROUGH THE GOSPEL, GOD HAS REDEEMED US

**Col 1:14 NKJV - in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

**Redemption – liberation procured by the payment of a ransom.**

- In a US court, when a defendant doesn't want to testify to his own guilt, he pleads the 5th.
- In order for our guilt to be removed from before God, we have to plead the blood of Christ that paid the ransom price for our freedom from Satan and sin.

Forgiveness – A casting away. Sins have a way of sticking with us, engrained in our minds, always bringing forth guilt and shame. But God has chosen to remember our sin no more!

- But it required blood. When we are tempted to sin, we shouldn't think, "Oh, it's not a big deal because God will give me." Instead, we ought to say, "That sin is so vile, so wicked, so dark, and so destructive that it required the perfect and innocent son of God to spill his blood in order for me to be forgiven."

**BIBLE PASSAGE****Micah 7:19 (ESV - English Standard Version)**

<sup>19</sup> He will again have compassion on us;  
he will tread our iniquities underfoot.

You will cast all our sins  
into the depths of the sea.

---

**BIBLE PASSAGE****Romans 4:7-8 (ESV - English Standard Version)**

<sup>7</sup> "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven,  
and whose sins are covered;

<sup>8</sup> blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

---