

Deeper into Christ

Growing in the
Knowledge of God

Colossians 1:9-14

Three Types of People

1. **The Tired:** "Life is a mistake"
(build a fence & huddle up)
2. **The Hedonists:** "To be is better
than not to be" (enjoy each
moment)

3. **The Enthusiasts:** Living is an
ascent and discovery; to attain
a fuller measure of being.

Our text is a prayer that
encapsulates the enthusiast
perspective.

For this reason, since the day
we heard it, we have not
ceased praying for you ...
giving thanks to the Father,

Colossians 1:9a,12a

1. Joyfully Giving Thanks

An attitude that begins in
Colossians 1:3 ... "In our prayers
for you we always thank God, the
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,"
And continues in verse 12 ...
"giving thanks to the Father,"

- An attitude anchored in
prayer for the Colossians (1:3)
- Specifically an attitude of
thanksgiving

A Mood of Gratitude



- The entire mood/tone of the letter is one of gratitude
- Not a position of the Stoics – self-sufficiency
- Rather Paul's strength is found in God – leaning on God

Learn the Art



- We are invited to learn the art of thanksgiving
- Be grateful each day amidst the challenges of life – practice the habit of giving thanks
- Paul and Silas giving thanks while in jail in Philippi (Acts 16:25)

asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God.


Colossians 1:9b-10


2. Growing in Knowledge & Good Works




Three words for knowledge (v9)


1. **Gnosis** – knowledge of God & his purposes
2. **Sophia** – spiritual wisdom – wisdom for living (Proverbs)
3. **Understanding** – led by the Holy Spirit in discerning God's voice

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- We are called to grow in our understanding of God - intelligent understanding and experience
 - This provides the capacity to live worthy lives (v10)


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- The result of such understanding is demonstrated through good works - see also Ephesians 2:10
 - Faith changes how we live our lives – there is no separation of faith and good works



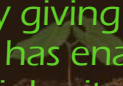
- The good works are enabled by the power of God
- “May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience,” (v11)



- A reiteration of “power” words – made strong, all the strength, his glorious power, endure everything
- Power through the Holy Spirit to live in love




- Paul elaborates on how the power is demonstrated:
 - Endurance
 - Patience
 - Joy
 - Persevering in our faith journey and not giving up




while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:12-14


3. Enabled by Hope & Salvation



- Good works flow through our empowerment from God
- Our salvation is accomplished by the power of God – ‘from darkness to light’ (v12b-13)




- Salvation is on both an individual and cosmic scale
- He has rescued us – similar to ‘redeemed’ and ‘ransomed’ (Isaiah 35) – language of the Exodus



- The result is a life of hope – ‘to share in the inheritance’
- A mood of hope and joy not fear and trepidation

Forgiveness, Redemption



- We are given a life of forgiveness and redemption (v14b) – sins are forgiven; the slate is erased against us




- We are also to offer to others forgiveness and not hold onto resentment
- To demonstrate the kingdom now – even while we wait for its fulfillment

Summary



- Joyfully giving thanks
- Growing in knowledge and good works
- Enabled by our hope and salvation



“Theology is grace and ethics is gratitude.”

FF Bruce