

Last week I spoke about how we can know God's will in our life, and I gave you three steps to knowing His will.

- 1) Surrender your life to Him
- 2) A willingness to do His will once we know it
- 3) Prayer

Col 1:9-18

9 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. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

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

We closed last week in verse 11 where Paul prayed that the church would be strengthened with all might, according to His (God's) glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

Paul encouraged the believers by saying patience and longsuffering should be accompanied with joy, not begrudgingly.

Chariots of Fire movie.

We're told in Hebrews to run with endurance the race that is set before us.

Jam 1:17: every good gift and every perfect gift is from above.

Jn 16: Jesus tells the disciples He's leaving them soon.

Jesus has been their rock, they were undoubtedly strengthened and encouraged by Him. Now He's leaving.

John 16:20-22

20 Most assuredly, I say to you that you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice; and you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy.

21 A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world.

22 Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.

He turns our sorrows to joy.

Matthew Henry's comment when robbed:

What are you thankful for this morning?

Book of Lamentation, to lament or cry out loud:

Chapter 3

- there is a beautiful passage of confidence and hope.
- Jeremiah's tone changes in verse 21 from despair to hope.

Lam 3:20

21 This I recall to my mind,
Therefore I have hope.

Jeremiah was speaking of God's love for Israel,

You see, even in our darkest moments,

- even then God will not cast His people away.

So, if you ever think to yourself, "I am such a wretched sinner," remember that God will not cast you away.

Lam 3:22-23

22 Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.
23 They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.

His compassions fail not.

The ESV and the KJV use the word "mercies" instead of "compassions:"

Mercy in the bible is God's withholding of a just punishment.

Alistair Begg once said:

At best we are but clay, animated dust; but viewed as sinners, we are monsters indeed. Let it be published in heaven as a miracle that the Lord Jesus should set His heart's love upon people like us.

Matt 14:14 is a great example of God's mercy and compassion.

3

Paul was thankful for the church of Colosse. He wanted them to be filled with the knowledge of God's will.

He also wanted the church to walk worthy of the calling that God had in their life.

Finally, Paul prayed that the church would be strengthened according to God's glorious power.

Notice in verse 12 that Paul had a thankful walk with the Lord. He gives thanks to the Father.

Thanksgiving is the theme of the letter to the Colossians.

Col 2:6-7

6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving.

Col 3:15

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

Col 4:2

2 Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving;

1 Thes 5:18

in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

So Paul was thankful for the Colossians and he'd been praying for them until he gets to verse 12. Now we see that he's not praying, he's praising.

And in his praise to God, he's asking the Lord

- to help the believers in Colosse
- and believers today to be thankful
- for their salvation.

In verses 12-14 there are 3 blessings for the believer.

The first blessing is,

- the Father has qualified us or readied us.

The Greek word from which we get our English word "qualify" means;

- to make sufficient, competent or worthy.

So God has made us worthy partakers (to join in)

To join into what? Into the inheritance that awaits us.

We can walk in the light now!

Eph 5:8;

8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

1 Thes 5:5

5 we are sons of light and sons of day. We are not of the night nor of darkness.

Col 1:12 God qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the "LIGHT!"

Jn 3:21 he who does the truth comes to the light,

A contrasting scripture:

2 Cor 6:15

15 And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

We no longer have anything to do with the darkness of this world in terms of participation.

We've been redeemed through the blood of Christ Eph 1:7.

13 He has delivered us (not, is going to deliver us, has delivered us. He rescued us) from the power of darkness and conveyed us (denotes change of place or condition) into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

In verse 12 the Father has qualified us.

In verse 13 it's the Father and the Son who have delivered us.

- So, God the Father qualifies us,
- then God thru His Son Jesus translates us
- or moves us into God's kingdom.

Col 1:14

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

This verse reminded me of the persecuted church of Smyrna.

Rev 2:9

9 "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich);

5

Four facts about redemption: verse 14:

- In whom - this is a reference to Jesus

There is only one name by which we can be saved, it's Jesus!

The second fact about redemption in verse 14 is "we have" (present active verb):

The moment you received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He sealed you!

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have (there's that present active verb again. Not is going to have but already has) everlasting life.

Slavery in the Roman world was a picture of our relation to Jesus.

Looking at verse 14,

- Again, we have redemption
- through the blood of Jesus.

Salvation is free to us. But it cost Jesus His life.

The last plague upon the Egyptians during the exodus:

- Unless blood was applied to
- the lintel and doorposts of a home
- the firstborn would die.

But when the Lord saw the blood on the Lintel and doorposts

- He would not allow the destroyer
- to kill anyone in that home.
- He would pass over the home.

We're saved when God sees His blood covering us when we've said yes to Jesus.

In the next few verses Paul gives us 3 reasons

- why Jesus is to have preeminence.

We'll see references to Jesus in the next few verses.

In verse 15 we see that He is,

- verse 16 - by Him,
- Verse 17 - He is,
- verse 18 - again, He is,
- and in verse 19 in Him.

15 He is the image (a picture or exact likeness) of the invisible God, the firstborn (means first in importance,) over all creation. (This is the first reason Jesus is to have preeminence, He's the image of the invisible God. He reveals God to us.

Paul wasn't saying that Jesus was created.

The JW's (Jehovah's witnesses) doctrine teaches that Jesus was created.

- They claim that he was Michael the Ark Angel.

In verse 16, we'll see that by Him all things were created.

- The JW's inserted the word "other"
- to read all other things were created by Him.

But in the original Greek we see in verse 16 that "Him"

- is in reference to Jesus.

Jesus couldn't be created since all things were created by Him.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God vs 15.

1 Tim 1:17: God is immortal, invisible and wise,

John 1:18: no one has seen God at any time.

Rom 1:20 that God's invisible attributes are clearly seen, but we don't see God.

Why can't we see God?

- Because He lives in the eternal,
- we're living in the temporal.
- He is infinite, we are finite.

Jesus is the firstborn over creation, He is the head of the church.

When Paul said that Jesus is the image of the invisible God,

- He's saying that Jesus represented God.

In Matt chapter 22 the Pharisees

- were trying to entangle Jesus in His talk
- so they sent to Him their own disciples
- who asked Jesus if it was lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?

Jesus asked, "Whose image and inscription is this?"

Jesus replied,

Matt 22:15

"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

We should honor and Praise Him for who He is!

In John 14 Thomas asked Jesus, Lord, we don't know where you're going, and how can we know the way?

John 14:6-9

6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Jesus wasn't saying He was the Father

- but that He had all of the attributes of the Father,

The second reason Jesus is to have preeminence is in verse 16:

16 For by Him all things were created (2nd reason) that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities (Angelic beings) or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist (held together).

He makes a cosmos instead of chaos.

Psa 75,

When the earth and all its people quake,
it is I who hold its pillars firm.

Now Paul had to explain the preeminence of Christ to the church because of the false teaching in those days.

Paul says, by Him, or literally in the Greek, "In Him" all things were created.

John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word (this is the eternal word of God), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Gen 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

Gen 1:26

Then God said, "Let Us make an in Our image,

Jesus is the source of all authority.

Verses 16 & 17 are some of the strongest statements about

- the divine nature of Christ
- found anywhere in the Bible.

Jesus is not only equal to God (Philippians 2:6),

He is God (John 10:30, 38; 12:45; 14:1-11).

He not only reflects God, but he reveals God to us (John 1:18; 14:9).

He came from heaven, not from the dust of the ground (1 Corinthians 15:47), and

He's Lord of all (Romans 9:5; 10:11-13; Revelation 1:5; 17:14).

He is completely holy (Hebrews 7:26-28; 1 Peter 1:19; 2:22; 1 John 3:5), and he has authority to judge the world (Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1).

Therefore, he is supreme over all creation, including the spirit world.

Psa 98:8,

Let the rivers clap their hands; Let the hills be joyful together before the Lord,

Isa 55:12-13

12 "For you shall go out with joy,

And be led out with peace;

The mountains and the hills

Shall break forth into singing before you,

And all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree,

And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;

And it shall be to the Lord for a name,

For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday,

- the Pharisees were not very happy.

- And they told Jesus to rebuke His multitude of disciples.

Jesus responded:

“I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.”

Jesus before all of creation and in Him all things consist (means to hold together).

In Eph 4 Paul speaks of the whole body being joined and knit together so that every part does its share for the growth and edification of itself in love.

The third reason for Jesus to have preeminence is that:

- He’s the head of the body, the church!

18 And He is the head of the body (this is a metaphor that we are the body and Christ is the head), the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Means that Jesus should be above all else)

Again, Paul mentions Jesus as the firstborn over everything:

There is no Pastor,

- no Elder, no Bishop,
- no Priest, no Pope,
- no Imam, no person
- that is the head of the church.

No one in this room or outside of this building will give an account for their life to a man.

- We will all give an account to Jesus,
- He’s the head of the church!

Man is created in the image of God, but Jesus IS the image of God.