

Introduction: Welcome, Teaching Practice.

>>> A. Background: Verses 3-8. Heard Of The Positive Gospel Impact. Faith, Hope, Love.

- **Basic Summary: Paul Heard That They Had Become Christians.**

>>> B. Verses 9-14. Paul Prays For 4 Things These People Who Already Christians.

- **4 Goals Of The Christian Life.**

Colossians 1:9-14. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

>>> A. Four Goals:

- Be Enlightened. Vs. 9. "Filled With The Knowledge Of His Will."
- Be Godly. Vs. 10. "Walk Worthy And Pleasing To God."
- Be Strong. Vs. 11. "Strengthened With All Power."
- Be Thankful. Vs. 12. "Giving Thanks To The Father."

Colossians 1:9. And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

>>> A. "From The Day We Heard...." That You Became Christians. "Not Ceased To Pray.."

- Just Becoming Christians Is Not The Ultimate Goal.

Conception And Birth Illustration. New Life. Miracle Of God. Great Joy. Arrived At Goal? No! Content To Remain A Helpless Baby. Grow In: Knowledge. Strength. Character. Maturity.

>>> B. Church Need To Remember Ultimate Goal Is Maturity.

- Otherwise: Equate Success With Pronouncement Of Faith, Regular Attendance.
- Neglect Discipling Process.

>>> C. Next Paul Prays For Four Things, Four Goals For All Christians.

Christian Life Goal #1: Be Enlightened.

>>> A. Not Mystical Or Ethereal Sense. "Reached Enlightenment."

- Enlightened In The Sense Of Deeper Knowledge And Understanding Of True God.

>>> B. Verse 9. "Asking That You May Be Filled With The Knowledge Of His Will."

2 Peter 3:18a. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:17-18b. (I pray) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him,¹⁸ having the eyes of your hearts enlightened,

Philippians 1:9-10. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

>>> C. Vs. 9. "Filled With Knowledge..." Overflowing, Developing, And Ongoing Enlightenment.

Extremely Knowledgeable People III. Sports, Music, Finances, Cars, Etc. Life-Long, Ongoing Process.

>>> D. Particular Type Of Knowledge. “His (God’s) Will.”

- Modern Usage Of “Knowing God’s Will” - Personal Direction For Specifics In Personal Life: Job. Investments. Major Move. Relationship. Purchase. Etc.
- Biblical Usage: Prescriptive Will Or Moral Will.
- Knowing God’s Will Means Knowing The Kind Of Person He Wants Me To Be And The Kind Of Life He Wants Me To Live.
- More How I Work Than Where I Work.
- More About Being A Good Neighbor Wherever I Live Than What Neighborhood I Live In.
- More About My Thinking/Attitude Toward Money Than Particular Investment/Spending.

>>> E. “Spiritual Knowledge” Hence Described As Spiritual Wisdom And Understanding.

- Related To Spiritual Matters (What Pleases God) And Given By The Holy Spirit.

>>> F. How Do We Get This Kind Of Knowledge Of God's Will? First: God's Vital Part: "You May Be Filled..." God Is The Source, Provider. Passive Role.

- I Recognize Need For Divine Revelation: Hence Praying For Myself To Receive Enlightenment From God. Praying For Others To Receive Enlightenment From God.

Psalm 119:18. Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.

>>> G. How Do We Get This Kind Of Knowledge Of God's Will? Second: Man's Vital Part: Active Role.

- Biblical Terminology In Regard To Knowing God's Prescriptive Will: Grow. Add. Know.
- Enlightenment Requires Commitment To The Word Of God. (Listen. Read. Meditate. Search Diligently.)

Proverbs 2:2-6. Making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; ³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Christian Life Goal #1: Be Enlightened.

Christian Life Goal #2: Be Godly.

Colossians 1:10. so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

>>> A. Walk = Common Idiom For Lifestyle. Living A Life That Pleases God.

>>> B. Verse 10 Is Connected To Verse 9. "(Filled With Knowledge) So That....." You Live A Godly Life.

- Great Knowledge Without Application Is Useless.
- Examples: Healthy Diet. Wise Use Of Money. Safest Way To Drive.

>>> C. Christians Can Easily Fall Into A Problem Of Information Without Transformation.

- Common Encouragement: "I Love Verse By Verse. I Grow So Much." That's Great. Are You Living It Out?

James 1:22-24. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

Food Network Or DIY III. Watch. Learn. Neglect. Forget. Enjoyed Gaining The Knowledge.

Christian Life Goal #2: Be Godly.

**>>> D. Honest Self-Examination: Living Life Worthy Of The Lord? Fully Pleasing To Him?
Possible Examples Of Having Knowledge Without Application.**

- Sexual Activity?
- Responses To Hostility Or Mistreatment?
- Thinking And Handling About Money?
- Marriage Relationship?
- Speech: Honest? Pure? Edifying Words?

- Prayer Life?
- Daily Word?

Luke 8:18. Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.”

Very Elderly Drivers III. Think They Know How To Drive But Don't Know That They Don't Know.
Former Understanding Is Lost.

Christian Life Goal #2: Be Godly.

>>> E. Verse 10b. Explains Two Results Of Living A Godly Life.

- Result #1: Bearing Fruit In Every Good Work.

Healthy Fruit Tree III. Watered. Minerals. Sunshine. Produces Fruit. Good Results.

- Genuine Commitment To Living A Godly Life = Positive Impact, Fruit In Every Good Work, Every Aspect Of Life.

- Positive Spiritual Impact: Your Ministry. Marriage. Kids. Workplace. Etc.

>>> F. Verse 10b. Two Results Of Living A Godly Life. Result # 2: “Increase In The Knowledge Of God.”

- Applied Knowledge Leads To Greater Knowledge. “More Will Be Given.”

Financial Manager III. Who Get More Of Your Money? The Person Who Rightly Uses What You Have Already Given Them.

>>> G. Briefly Note The Use Of Genesis Creation Language: Increasing. Fruitful. Filled. Pleasing Or Good.

- Purposeful: New Creation. New Humanity. Jesus Is The Last Adam. Called To Fulfill The Original Mandate Of God.
- Be His Image Bearers Throughout The World. Represent His Holiness, His Love, Righteousness, Faithfulness, Etc.

>>> H. Review: Christian Life Goals: Be Enlightened. Be Godly.

Christian Life Goal #3: Be Strong.

Colossians 1:11. being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

>>> A. Verse 11. Paul's Prayer: "Be Strengthened With All Power."

- How Strong? "All Power" Able To Handle Anything.
- How Is That Possible? We Have Divine Power "According To His Glorious Might."

Philippians 4:13. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Ephesians 1:19-20. (I pray that you may know) the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰ that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,

>>> B. Does Being Strengthened With All Power Refer To Physical Strength? No. Ability To Accomplish Absolutely Anything? No.

- Specific Application Of Divine Strength.

>>> C. Verse 11b. "For All Endurance And Patience."

- 2 Words Meaning: Ability To Remain Faithful Under Two Different Kinds Of Circumstances.

>>> D. "All Endurance." Referred To Overwhelmingly Difficult Circumstances.

- Christians Have God's Power So They Can Remain Faithful In Seemingly Impossible Situations.
- Life's Troubles: Remain Faithful Despite Pains And Pressures Of Life. (Life's Problems, Pains.)
- Life's Temptations: Remain Faithful And Endure Despite Great Enticements.
- Divine Power So: No Impossible Temptation. No Impossible Trials.

>>> E. "Patience" Referred To Overwhelmingly Difficult People.

- Christians Have God's Power So They Can Remain Faithful Regarding Seemingly Impossible People.
- Remain Faithful, Loving, Kind, Righteous, Despite Certain People Who Push Your Buttons.

>>> F. "I Can Deal With Sickness, Poverty, Persecution, Temptation, I Can Even Go To Jail. I Can't Take This Person One More Day."

King Of The Hill Game Illustration. Difficult Situations And Difficult People Trying To Knock You Away From Faithfulness To God But You Can Be Strong And Endure Faithfully.

>>> G. "With Joy." Explain Lack Of Punctuation. Likely Goes With The Next Verse. Move The Semicolon.

>>> H. Review Christians Life Goals: Be Enlightened, Be Godly, Be Strong.

Christian Life Goal #4. Be Thankful.

Colossians 1:12-14. giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

>>> A. Christians Should Be Most Thankful People. Overflowing With Thankfulness. Why?

- Life Is Not Really The Same As Everyone Else.

- Big Difference: We Have Great Spiritual Blessings From God And Great Awareness Of The Cost Of Those Blessings.

>>> B. Present Active Participle Refers To Repeated Or Continuous Action. “Always Giving Thanks...”

- Honest Examination: Have You Been Extremely Thankful To God Lately? Not Merely Feeling Thankful, But Giving Thanks In A Real And Not Just Token Manner.

>>> C. Verse 12b-14. Two Reasons Every Christian Should Give Thanks To God.

>>> D. Reason #1: He Qualified You To Share In The Inheritance Of The Saints.

- His Work. Not Our Work.

Christian Concert III. Backstage With Band. Front Seats. No Payment Or Merit. Just Blessed By Another. Complain About The Seats Being Hard? Indifferent?

>>> E. We Share In An Inheritance From God: Eternal Life. Eternal Home. New People. New Bodies.

>>> F. Reason #2: "He's Delivered Us From The Domain Of Darkness And Transferred Us Into The Kingdom Of His Beloved Son"

- Original Condition: Malevolent Power. Unbreakable Bondage. Horrible Destiny. Far Worse Than Any Dictator, Tyrant, North Korea.
- Changed Condition: Kingdom Of His Beloved Son: Good Shepherd Instead Of An Evil Leader. Abundant Life And Freedoms Instead Of Bondage. Glorious Destiny Instead Of Eternal Hell.

>>> G. How Can Any Problem In This Life Negate My Thankfulness For These Blessings Beyond Compare?

\$1,000 For Bail For Inmate III. Not A Relative Or Friend. Right To Be Upset Because I Didn't Deposit \$20 In Commissary Account?

>>> H. Jesus Paid Far More For Our Freedom. For More Than We Can Imagine.

- Verse 14. "In Whom We Have Redemption, The Forgiveness Of Sin."

>>> I. Explain Slave Redemption And Ransom Being Paid.

Matthew 20:28. even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Instead Of Punishment For My Sins, I Have The Forgiveness For My Sins. How Can It Be Much Better Than That?

>>> Conclusion: 4 Christian Life Goals. Pray Every Morning, Pursue And Prioritize Every Day!

- Be Enlightened.
- Be Godly.
- Be Strong.
- Be Thankful.