

## Colossians Lesson 2 - Embracing the Will of God

“There is a spiritual law of choosing, believing, abiding, and holding steady in our walk with God, which is essential to the working of the Holy Spirit either in our sanctification or healing.”

- Lettie Cowman

### **TEXT**

In preparation beforehand or as a group, please watch The Bible Project's YouTube Video on the Book of Colossians through the 1:32 mark: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXTXIDxQsvc>

Read Colossians 1:9-14

<sup>9</sup> 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, <sup>10</sup> 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; <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### **COMMENTS**

Paul often addresses thanksgiving and prayer in his letters to the churches. Paul shows his enthusiasm for Colossians and their faith. He shows his excitement in the immediacy of reaching out to them “Since the day we heard this”(v.9).

Paul and Timothy remind us that we are continuously connected to Christ's supremacy and sovereignty in our daily lives. Bearing fruit through our works and striving to be sanctified, as image bearers to others. Paul and Timothy's intercession for the Colossians show their reliance on God who is all powerful and their concern and care for the people of God.

Paul's prayers contain specific requests. First that the Colossians be filled with the knowledge of God's will (Matthew 6:33). This spiritual knowledge is received through the Holy Spirit, shaping the direction and character of God's people, bearing fruit. Fruits are actions which reflect who God is and are a testimony to those who experience it (Galatians 5:22-23).

Secondly, Paul prays for their strength through God's might. God's strength is all-powerful and sovereign in nature. Able to overcome all trials and obstacles. Thus, strength in this verse refers to endurance and patience. (Philippians 4:13)

Further, Paul prays for their thankfulness reminding them that God enables them to share in His kingdom as His people. This is by God's grace and power. They are children of God through inheritance. (Romans 8:17, Ephesians 1:14,1:18)

Lastly, Paul reminds the Colossians to remember that the Lord delivered them out of darkness to the kingdom of His beloved son (1 Peter 2:9). This is done by the Gospel work on the cross. Jesus makes an atonement for our sin past, present and future (John 1:29, Ephesians 1:7). It also references the Old Testament when God led the Israelites out of darkness into the promised land (Exodus 6:6).

## **STUDY**

### **1. READ**

- a. What are some of the key points that Paul and Timothy pray for on behalf of the Colossians?
- b. What does Paul pray is revealed to the Colossians?
- c. What does Paul remind them about Christ?

### **2. MEANING**

- a. Paul explains that bearing fruit is pleasing to God. God's word is clear that we are not saved *by* our works but saved *for* good works. Explain the connection between serving out of love and gratitude vs. earning our place with God (Eph. 2:8-10, Romans 11:6).
- b. Paul prays for knowledge of His will through "spiritual wisdom and understanding" (vv 9-10). Where does this wisdom and understanding come from? (Ex. 31:3; 35:31) (Isa. 11:2)?
- c. What are the similarities of God's rescue of the Israelites out of Egypt and His deliverance of those that faithfully believe in the gospel?

### **3. APPLY**

- a. Do you live your daily lives connected to God, praying and listening to His will for your life? In what ways can you personally connect with Him throughout the day?
- b. Do you struggle with serving the Lord out of obligation or gaining acceptance from God?
- c. Paul and Timothy prayed continuously for the Colossians without even knowing them. Does God's grace and love move you to intercede for others, praying for their faith and well-being?

- d. How would it look to fully embrace walking with the Lord in all aspects of your life, knowing that He is with you in all that you do, loving you so abundantly that He died on a cross for you? Reflect and pray.

## **NOTES**

- a. There is no reference to the Church of Colossians in the Book of Acts. The knowledge is taken from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.
- b. Paul writes to the Colossians in prison; it's one of several letters during his time as a prisoner. In addition he also writes to the churches of Ephesians, Philippians and Philemon.

## **REFERENCES**

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Powlison, David, *Take Heart, Daily Devotionals to Deepen Your Faith*, New Growth Press 2022.