

The Aim of Christian Discipleship
Colossians 1: 14-19
July 20th 2025

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^[d] to the Father, who has qualified you^[e] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He 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.

“There will never be a truly transformed life apart from knowledge of God and his word. And it’s a sad thing to realize, but Christianity for many years has tried to live on a high moral level without really knowing the Bible, without really understanding the absolutes, without understanding the principles revealed in Scripture.”
-John MacArthur

Main Idea: Christian growth and maturity is rooted in the knowledge of God and his word and leads to transformed lives that are pleasing to him.

1. A people filled with knowledge in order to please the Lord (verses 9-10a)

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

2. A life transformed by the knowledge of God (verses 10b-14)

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^[d] to the Father, who has qualified you^[e] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He 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. Knowledge that leads to bearing fruit (v.10b)

bearing fruit in every good work

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

b. Knowledge that leads to growing in knowledge (v.10c)

and increasing in the knowledge of God;

“What makes life worthwhile is having a big enough objective, something which catches our imagination and lays hold of our allegiance, and this the Christian has in a way that no other person has. For what higher, more exalted, and more compelling goal can there be than to know God?”

“There's a difference between knowing God and knowing about God, How can we turn our knowledge about God into knowledge of God? The rule for doing this is simple but demanding. It is that we turn each Truth that we learn about God into matter for meditation before God, leading to prayer and praise to God.”

-JI Packer

c. Knowledge that leads to being strengthened to endure with joy (v.11)

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

“I saw more clearly than ever, that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day, to have my soul happy in the Lord.”

George Mueller

You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 16:11

d. Knowledge that leads to giving thanks for the gospel that saves (v.12-14)

¹² giving thanks^[a] to the Father, who has qualified you^[e] 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.

- We have been brought into a new family and given a better inheritance.
- We have been freed from a position of slavery and given a new citizenship.
- We have been forgiven of our sins and given a redeemed life in Christ.