

Series: The Power of Prayer

GIVING THANKS UNTO THE FATHER COLOSSIANS 1:1-13

Text: Colossians 1:3, 12

Colossians 1:3

³ We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Colossians 1:12

¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Introduction:

We see in this:

Paul's Delight in the Church (vs. 6)

Colossians 1:6

⁶ Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Paul's Declaration to the Church (vs. 7, 8)

Colossians 1:7-8

⁷As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; ⁸Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Paul's Desire for the Church (vs. 9)

Colossians 1:9

⁹For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

This one point will be the message today.

Paul's Description of the Church

It is a loved church.

It was a laboring church. Paul is talking about the work they did.

It was a local church. Colosse.

God has chosen the work to go through the local church. Don't let anyone try to tell you that the church is unimportant.

We see his desire is:

1. THAT THEY UNDERSTAND THE WILL OF GOD (VS. 9)

Colossians 1:9

⁹For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Let me say this in all kindness, but it is tragic how many of God's people are ignorant to the will of God. I have known people who have asked for prayer to know the will of God, and then a year later they are still asking for the same prayer. It is not that hard to know the will of God for your life.

How do you determine the will of God? Do all that you know to do and then God will fill in the blanks.

A. We Know That It Is God's Will That All Men Be Saved.

1 Timothy 2:4

⁴Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

B. We Know That He Wants All Saved People To Be Baptized.

It is a portrayal of the death, burial, and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C. We Know That He Wants All Saved And Baptized People To Be An Active Part Of The Local Church.

All of this is common knowledge of the will of God.

D. His Will For You Is That You Tithe.

You need not seek anything on that. It is in the Scripture, and we are to be obedient to His Word.

E. His Will For You To Be A Witness To Others.

We are to do all that we know to do and then God will fill in that which we don't know. He will take up the slack. He will fill the gap.

Most people who go for years without settling the will of God in their lives is one of two things:

Either they know the will of God, and they are unwilling to do it, or they won't do what they know to be the will of God, and He won't reveal the rest.

Until you do what you already know to be the will of God, He is not obligated to show you further.

Another thought:

If you are not active in every service here at the church, and if you are not praying and reading His word, He is not going to reveal anything more to you.

You are not in any position to receive the unknown will of God until you are doing His known will.

2. THAT THEY UTILIZE THE WISDOM OF GOD

Colossians 1:9

⁹For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

This phrase should have all of us on our knees crying out for wisdom.

Paul is telling them that he does not cease to pray for them to have the wisdom of God.

Did you know that if you were filled with the wisdom of God it would prevent many of the foolish mistakes you make?

Have you ever stopped to think that many of the bad decisions we make in life is because we are not utilizing the wisdom of God?

James 1:5

⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Wisdom is not determined by your age, your experience, your education, your intellect. Wisdom is determined by whether you ask the Father to give wisdom. Wisdom comes from no other source.

Proverbs 4:7

⁷ Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Proverbs 16:16

¹⁶ How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

Let's look at it like this: Suppose that when the next payday arrives the boss comes and asks you do you want this week's salary in gold or in wisdom. How would you answer?

The Bible says it is better to take wisdom and leave the gold lay.

That's hard to reason with, isn't it?

Most of the population today would think that the principal thing needed today would be gold or tangible material, but the Bible says wisdom is to be the principal effort.

Paul said, "My desire for the church at Colosse is that the members utilize the wisdom of God.

I am so thankful for men of this church that are men of wisdom. At times I ask certain of our men about certain things, they will speak with wisdom in their answer.

3. THAT THEY WILL UNDERTAKE TO WALK WITH GOD (VS. 10)

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Paul had a deep desire that the people in the Colossian church walk daily with the Lord.

Not just walk daily, but to walk worthy.

Walk worthy, how? "*..pleasing...*"

Pleasing whom?

Not pleasing the brethren.

Not trying to keep up with the church down the street or across town.

We are not trying to follow how some other church may be doing their ministry.

We are to *“walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing”*.

Pleasing the Lord. We are not commanded or instructed to do a certain ministry just because another church is doing that.

We are to walk worthy of the calling of the Lord given unto us here at Temple Baptist Church. The leadership that we follow is the Holy Spirit.

If you are going to walk with God personally, you will have to spend time in the Book.

If you are going to walk with God, you must spend time in prayer.

You won't walk with Him showing up for church once a month.

There are some in this church who think once a month is enough to frequent the house of God.

You can't walk with God if that is what you do. What does this do to the children? A child sees mom and dad stay home on Sun. PM or Wed. PM and they say, "Church must not be as important as the preacher says it is." They grow up with the mentality that church is a take or leave it matter.

What you accept in moderation, your children will practice in excess.

If you accept a spasmodic attendance in church, your children will practice a greater degree of absenteeism.

4. THAT THEY ARE UNITED IN THE WORK OF GOD (vs.10)

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

This is not talking about everyone of every faith getting together and becoming one.

I'm not talking about eccumenicalism.

I am not promoting swaying back and forth holding hands and singing, "We are all one in the Spirit."

That is not what united means.

We are to be united in our differences; but not doctrinal differences.

We are never commanded to unite with those who are doctrinally corrupt.

I am talking about preferential differences.

5. THAT THEY WILL UPHOLD THE WORD OF GOD (VS.10)

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

A. Uphold The Inspiration Of The Bible.

B. Uphold The Preservation Of The Bible.

This KJV Bible is the preserved Word of God. We don't have to hunt for it. We don't have to wonder if we have the truth or not.

God has promised us that it is preserved.

Psalms 12:6-7

⁶ The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. ⁷ Thou shalt

keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

It is not enough for us to claim that we have the perfect Word of God, but we must allow that perfect word to do its work in our hearts and our lives.

It is not enough to hold it in our hands, but we must hide it in our heart that we might live for Him everyday.

6. THAT THEY WILL UPLIFT HIM IN WORSHIP (VS.12)

Colossians 1:12

¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

A. All Of Us Have Something To Worship Him About.

Notice that next phrase in Vs. 12, “*which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance*”.

If nothing else, praise Him because you are a partaker in the heavenly inheritance.

You have been placed in the family of God, and your name is written in the Lamb’s Book Of Life.

B. Vs. 13, Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,”

Think about that for a minute.

If you are saved, you have been delivered from the power of the wicked one.

He no longer owns you.

He has no power over your future.

You can praise God for that. You are no longer in captivity.

C. “..and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:”

We can just keep on going here in the next several verses. Vs. 14.

Colossians 1:14

¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Paul’s Desire should also be our desire.

What is your desire? I hope your desire is to walk more closely with the Lord.