

## Praying With Paul – Week 3

### Colossians 1:9-14 “Praying for Knowledge of God’s Will”

**Book Suggestion:** *The Secret Key to Heaven* by Thomas Brooks

**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.

#### I. Request—for Knowledge of God’s Will

a. “asking that you may be \_\_\_\_\_

**DA Carson:** “Very frequently we are inclined to use the expression *the will of God* to refer to God’s will for my vocation or for some aspect of my future that is determined by an impending choice. We ‘seek the Lord’s will’ over whom we should marry, over major purchases, over what church to attend when we move to a new cit. None of this is intrinsically bad. There are many ways in which the Lord does lead us, and we should not despise them. Nevertheless this focus is often quite misleading, perhaps even dangerous, for it encourages me to think of ‘the Lord’s will’ primarily in terms of my future, my vocation, my needs—and that is often another form of self-centeredness...” (*Praying with Paul*, 101).

**Psalm 143:10:** “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!”

**1 Thessalonians 4:3:** “For this is the will of God, your sanctification.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:16–18:** “Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing, <sup>18</sup> give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

b. ...*FILLED with the knowledge of his will...*”

**Charles Spurgeon,** “Paul would have the Colossians know what the Lord has revealed, as far as the human mind can grasp it...Our prayer should daily be, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?’ Lord, teach me what is sin, and what is righteousness, that I may discern the things which are excellent...Our desire is to be filled with the knowledge of the Lord’s will so as to do it without fail” (*Lessons from the Apostle Paul’s Prayers*, 60-61).

c. "...in all \_\_\_\_\_"

**Charles Spurgeon:** "wisdom is knowledge rightly used...we want Christian people not only to know, but to use what they know" (*Lessons from the Apostle Paul's Prayers* 62).

## II. Purpose of Knowledge—to Live a Life Pleasing to the Lord

a. ".....so as to \_\_\_\_\_ fully \_\_\_\_\_"

**DA Carson:** In thought, word, and deed, in action and in reaction, I must be asking myself, 'What would Jesus have me do? What is speech or conduct worthy of him? What sort of speech or conduct in this context should I avoid, simply because it would shame him? What would please him the most? Rightly pursued, these simple questions would transform how we work, what we do with the leisure time, how we talk with our spouses and children, what responsibilities we take on in our churches, what we read, what we watch on television, how we treat our neighbors, what we do with our money...' (p. 106).

## III. Four Characteristics of Lives that Please the LORD

a. ....bearing fruit \_\_\_\_\_

b. ....increasing \_\_\_\_\_

John 17:4, "Eternal life is this—that we know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent."

c. ....being \_\_\_\_\_ for all  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Carson:** "endurance and patience...are not virtues that are popular in our age...In an age where tempers are hot, quick solutions are ardently courted, success is revered, victory is cherished, independence is lauded, and easy triumphs are promised, 'endurance and patience' at first glance seem like less than stellar qualities. But the truth is, they are so far beyond human capacity that they require the power of the Spirit of God."

d. ....giving \_\_\_\_\_

<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.