

“Priorities Of 2025”
Colossians 1:9-14
New Year’s Message December 29, 2024

- 1. Things Pertaining to Oneself: (Majority)**
- 2. Things Pertaining to Others: (Fewer)**

Suggest a 3rd Category, that is being left out -

- 3. Things Pertaining to God: (Absent)**

Background: Paul from prison, writes to a church he has never visited.
(Philippians, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon)

Thought Of Our Passage: “Wisdom Seeks God For The Knowledge Of His Will, To Walk In His Ways, Resulting In A Fruitful Life And Service”

We will look at 6 Priorities for 2025:

1. Verse 9 - Prayer For Knowledge Of His Will:

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, Context - For what reason is Paul speaking of? He has just spoken about their reception of the gospel. He started by greeting them, and thanking God for them, for the work of His Spirit in them.
Colossians 1:6-8

since the day we heard of it, He heard of their receiving of the gospel, the fruit that was bringing an increase and their love of the Spirit.

Paul models prayer and its importance! There are 4 things.

1. Urgency In Prayer - **since the day we heard of it**, Paul heard, he prayed
2. Consistency In Prayer - **we have not ceased to pray for you**
3. Unity In Prayer - **since the day we heard of it**, Note - **we** this was Paul and Timothy who were praying together. This is the unity of prayer.
4. Intensity In Prayer - **and to ask** This was not lip service, his heart was touched.

and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge Paul would pray for knowledge when this church was under siege by those claiming to have knowledge.

you may be filled “filled full” Greek word carries the idea of “being fully equipped” It was used to describe “a ship that was ready for a voyage”
As believers in Jesus Christ, we have been given all **Colossians 2:10**

filled means to be "controlled by" filled with anger, we are controlled by anger. To be "filled with the Spirit" (**Ephesians 5:18**) means to be "controlled by the Spirit."

knowledge - "an overflowing knowledge" "recognition, full discernment"

spiritual wisdom "hands-on of God's truth, the doing of the right thing"

and understanding, "a mental putting together, intelligence"

"A person with spiritual insight and discernment, that understands how to apply God's Word to specific situations."

knowledge of His will This is foundational of every true believer.

When we speak of the will of God, we are speaking of 2 specific areas.

General Will - The Bible contains principles that are clearly laid out

Specific Will - like who should I marry, should I purchase this house or car?

term "**Will of God**," it is used **434 times**

Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 2:15; John 7:17

God's primary way of leading is through... His Word, Holy Spirit

1. The Word - Psalm 119:105 Scriptures primary source of knowledge

2. Holy Spirit - John 16:13 Spiritual knowledge comes through the Holy Spirit. We then receive a special saving knowledge of Him. (**John 17:3**)

Will we ask God to fill us with the knowledge of His will today?

2. Verse 10 - Prayer For A Balanced Walk:

Colossians 1:10 "Walk" speaks of one's conduct. It is the lifestyle

Colossians 2:6 so walk in Him, **Colossians 3:7** you also once walked,

Jewish Thinking - Knowledge and Conduct Went Together.

worthy - "to weigh the same as" speaks of the balancing (Behavior Of Belief)

1 Corinthians 4:20 kingdom of God **does not consist in words but in power.**

Notice whom we are to please! please Him the Lord, not Man.

3. Verse 10 - Prayer For Fruitful Service:

Colossians 1:10 bearing fruit – *"fruit being present and continuous"*

Jesus' Prescription For Fruitfulness: John 15:4-5

bearing fruit This is the outcome of the worthy walk.

fruit – Characteristics of Jesus, fruit of the Spirit. Taking on His likeness.

in every good work John 15:8

Are we fruitful? Are we seeing an increase in the characteristics of Jesus in our lives?

4. Verse 10 - Prayer For Knowledge Through Service:

Colossians 1:10 and increasing in the knowledge of God; Paul mentions knowledge again, Why? bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; Paul saw the connection between Action and Knowledge. **That as we Continue in Service we will naturally Grow in Knowledge. John 7:17**

Are we growing in our relationship with God? Are we serving God? Did we serve God in 2024?

5. Verse 11 - Prayer For Circumstances And People:

Colossians 1:11 strengthened with all power, We need God's power. **"Adverse Circumstances" & "Difficult People"**

strengthened – *"to enable, to receive strength"* **with all power** – It is from this word we get our word *"dynamite, dynamic"*

according to His glorious might, The strength that is available is based on God's own scale.

Notice what this great power is for! **(Steadfastness, patience)**

for the attaining of all steadfastness This speaks of the *"enablement for one to hold his position in battle"* **"Adverse Circumstances"**

and patience; *(Long-suffering)* This word means *"self-restraint"* the opposite of revenge.

This word speaks of "Difficult People" Having steadfastness is no guarantee that you will have patience.

Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 25:28

"A man is as big as the things that annoy him."

6. Verses 11-14 - Prayer For An Attitude Of Gratitude:

Colossians 1:11-12

The fallen human nature is ungrateful, it is not thankful!

Romans 1:21

What Reasons Do We Have To Give Thanks? (3 Reasons)

1. Give Thanks, God Qualified Us With Inheritance Of The Saints - Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. We are presently walking in the light now!

1 Thessalonians 5:5

2. Give Thanks Because God Has Rescued Us - Colossians 1:13 rescued us from the domain of darkness, 1 Peter 2:9

transferred – The word was used *"to describe a mighty king picking-up an entire population and transporting them to another location"*

3. Give Thanks Because We Are Forgiven Of Sin - Colossians 1:14 in whom we have redemption – *"Rescue by ransom, the freeing of a slave by payment of a ransom price"* That means we have been purchased from the slave market of sin.

forgiveness - means *"to send away"* or *"to cancel a debt"* of sins.

Application:

- 1. Make Corporate Worship A Priority:** Sundays And Wednesdays
- 2. Give Full Attention When Attending The Services** – listen for His Message
- 3. Application** - Not how I feel but how I act that really matters.
- 4. Those Attending For 6 Months Or Longer Should Be Serving** - *Knowing always involves practice. Knowing is Growing, Growing is Knowing.*
- 5. Be Committed To Growth In 2025** –
- 6. Pray For The Pastors and Wives, Staff, Leadership, Services, Ministries**