

**Christ is All and In All!**  
**(An Expository Study of Colossians)**  
**Paul's Prayer for the Colossians' Consecration to Christ**

**Intro: Paul viewed the Colossians' conversion to Christ and the initial responses they had made to the gospel with gratitude; but he understood that conversion to Christ is only the beginning. There must also be growth and progress in the faith if they were to avoid those who would spoil the good start that they had achieved. And to that end Paul had already been praying. It is one of the most spiritual and noble prayers in all the Scripture and will serve as a wonderful model for all of us as we pray to day to day and for one another in our assemblies.**

**Paul prayed that the Colossians would:**

**Increase in spiritual intelligence**

*For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,*

Learning how to be saved is important; but learning how to live as a saved person is also important. Paul wanted the Colossians to grow in the knowledge of God's will. In view of the threats of false doctrine that endangered the Colossians, the best solution was the most complete knowledge of God's word.

It was not merely information that Paul prayed that they attain, but the proper application of it. He prayed that their knowledge would be with spiritual wisdom and understanding.

**Live in practical obedience**

*Knowledge is important; but we must be more than Bible students or even scholars. As disciples we must not only learn the Master's teaching, but live it. Paul underscores this truth in four distinct descriptions of the disciples' obedience:*

*so that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,*

Our way of life is Christ-honoring. Our way of life reveals the regard with which we hold the Lord in our hearts and it is in keeping with the kind of life that He lived and taught.

*to please Him in all respects,*

Our way of life is Christ-approving. Our goal is not to do our will, but His! And there should not be any greater desire than to hear him say, "Well done!"

What will it take to receive Christ's approval. Paul stresses two aspects of the life that pleases the Lord:

*bearing fruit in every good work*

As we obey His teachings, we produce good works that benefit others.

*and increasing in the knowledge of God;*

Our faith is not merely a moral system that seeks to help others, it is the pursuit of God. The more we strive to obey Him the more we know about Him and the deeper our knowledge and love of Him becomes.

*But Paul's prayer reflects a deeper insight into apostleship. It is not enough that we know the truth nor that we do good deeds. Paul prayed that they might be:*

### **Be empowered with moral excellence**

*strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might,*

The beauty of Paul's prayer is the realization that these noble goals are made possible not by our efforts alone, but by the working of God's power in us! And the results are evident:

*for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. (Colossians 1:9-12)*

We not only need to know good things, and do good things. We need to receive good things.

Steadfastness has to do with how we respond to difficult circumstances. It means that we hold up under the burdens life presents to us to carry.

Patience has to do with how we respond to difficult people. It means that we keep our heads and do not allow our tempers to flair when dealing with difficult people.

Joy is the fruit of faith and the Spirit. It indicates that God is working in us when we feel joy at all that God has given us.

Gratitude is the expression of our joy in thanksgiving for what God has provided for us: He has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

*God has made us sufficient or given us the right of access to something.*

*That something is a share or portion or part of something.*

*That something is the "inheritance" (the word means that which is one's lot and is based on the idea of what is assigned by lot, as for example, the territories of a conquered nation).*

*And those who receive this lot are the "saints in light"—that is those whose holy lives reflect the illuminating truth of the gospel.*

### **Three important lessons**

*Paul's prayer provides clear direction for all the people of God.*

Do you know where you are doing? Do you know what the destination of this spiritual journey is? Here it is in a nutshell (growing knowledge, God-pleasing obedience, moral excellence)

*Paul urges his to reach our fullest potential in Christ and not settle for mediocrity or second-rate spirituality.*

Have you noticed all the universal expressions Paul used? “Filled with knowledge; all wisdom and understanding; all respects; every good work; all power; all steadfastness and patience.” God seeks that we maximize our spiritual potential! We should never be content with where we are!

*Paul’s prayer underscores the importance of praying about our spiritual lives and those of others.*

It is perfectly in order to pray about health, children, finances, and host of our physical concerns that we have in living everyday life; but it would be a great mistake to pray and never think of the need to pray for our spiritual life and that of others. Paul’s prayer provides a wonderful example to imitate. When we the last time we prayed like this?

***Conclusion: Let us see clearly the goal for which we are striving and let us pray for one another that it might be achieved in us. If so, Christ will be all and in all!***