MESSAGE OUTLINE



Colossians 1:9-14 NKJV

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Introduction

Paul is writing a letter to this new church he had never met.

What would Paul write to explain the fundamentals of the faith to these strangers?

What would you write to a new church that did not have a Bible or a pastor?

This is why this letter is fundamental.

Livin' On A Prayer

The first essential that they need is, is to be filled with knowledge of God's will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

A big popular philosophy of their day was a movement called *gnosticism* - a unique and secret knowledge that some people had that others did not.

The adjective *gnostikos*, means "cognitive," or you can say it means "woke."

How did he deal with it? Paul's first line of defense against this anti-truth was prayer.

The battle Christian, is always in the mind. But, this world also needs the truth.

Preach the truth, and preach the word!

There is not much time left. *We must work while there is still light to work!*

Counter Strike
Notice Paul prays for them to have knowledge of God's will from two perspectives: wisdom and spiritual understanding.

A full fledged delusion will come with both false truth along with demonic spirituality.

This is the danger. Everything needs to begin with prayer and for discernment.

We must practice our discernment

Hebrews 5:14 (NAS) - ***But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.***

Do you know how to pray for wisdom and spiritual understanding for such discernment?

Jesus says in **John 16:13**, ***"The Spirit will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come."***

How can you hear the Spirit if you are talking the whole time?

Walking Worthy
We have no worth. Nothing we can do can compare to the cross. It is all Christ.

But the Bible tells us to walk (live) worthily... a kind of value that allows us to please God.

How can we please God by being fruitful?

Let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful. - Titus 3:14

How's your fruit coming along?
One of the purposes of small groups is so that you can either be helped, or help others.

Are you in a small group? It's hard to share fruit when you are alone.

If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. - 2 Thessalonian 3:10

The whole world is against us. God has strength and it is specifically for such opposition.

You can keep moving forward with patience that produces character, and experience joy that comes from hope in Christ.

Hope Is Not Of This World
The inheritance we share is eternal life. It is not something that can be taken away.

Would it make sense for God to then kick you out of the eternal kingdom of His Son? **No.**

What was the Rich Young Ruler's problem?
"Good Teacher, what shall I do so that I may inherit eternal life?"

He affirms to Jesus all the wonderful things he has done

He is saying to Jesus, I did it, so now I deserve it, right? ***No, it doesn't work that way.***

You do nothing to inherit eternal life. ***You simply believe in Jesus.*** This is the gospel!

But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:22-23

We are saved by grace through faith, it is not by anything you do yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works. - Ephesians 2:8-9

Because you don't believe this, you DO NOT go to God in prayer asking Him in a righteous standing before God. Instead you go to God without confidence, without believing that God will do the impossible. Because you judge yourself based upon yourself.

The prayer of a righteous man availeth much, and with God all things are possible.

Do you believe this?

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Philippians 4:6

Stand in Christ's grace, and believe in His righteousness through the redemption of His blood. Believe God can do the impossible. Then see how things go in prayer.

Conclusion
Our Father knows the things *you have need of before you ask Him*. (Matthew 6:8)

The most important question then is, is He your Father?

Being conveyed into the Kingdom of God by faith in Jesus gives you:
- A new nature, different from the world.
- An inheritance, a place in the everlasting, with Him in which you are a citizen.
- His power and authority, as an ambassador for Christ, to preach the gospel.
- A right to speak to God as your Father, and allows you to ask in righteousness.

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
January 27-28, 2024

Welcome FIRST TIME guests!

Thank you for visiting. Please send an email to gift@tokyobaptist.org for a free gift.

First time guest Connection:

COMMITMENT CARD

If you would like to believe in Jesus or have questions about baptism, we want to hear from you!

Email cc@tokyobaptist.org or visit https://t-b-c.us/cc to let us know!

TBC Life SIGN-UP

weekly email news

http://t-b-c.us/tbclife

UPCOMING TBC CLASS

class 301 Ministry

January 28th (Sun) 1:00 - 5:00pm

https://t-b-c.us/classes

Small Groups Information

SG Lesson
t-b-c.us/sg0524p

SG Sign-up
t-b-c.us/sgsu

For Online Giving please visit:

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