



Why does the apostle pray so earnestly for the Colossians' theological development? Pastor leads his family in today's "Hopewell @Home" passage. Colossians 1:9–12 prepares us for the first serial reading in Evening Public Worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that God, Who has qualified us in Jesus for a holy and brilliant inheritance, gets us ready to partake of that inheritance by making us holy. He does this by increasing our knowledge of a gospel so good that it enables us to rejoice and give thanks in the midst of troubles that require patience and longsuffering. And this joy frees us to focus upon loving Him with our works.

Thursday, September 16, 2021 ▫ Read Colossians 1:9–12

Questions from the Scripture text: What has the apostle been doing since he heard about the Colossians' faith, love, and hope (v9)? With what has he been praying that they would be filled? What is the purpose of this knowledge, and wisdom, and Spiritual understanding (v10)? How pleasing to the Lord is this worthy walking? What fruit do such people bear? In what must they increase in order to bear this fruit? How else must they be enabled (v11)? Strengthened by what? According to what? For what two things must they have such strength? With what do they exercise this patience and longsuffering? As they wait joyously, what are they to give to Whom (v12)? Of what has the Father qualified the apostle and his readers to partake?

We're disqualified for the inheritance of saints, but the Father (v12a, cf. v3) has brought the Colossian believers into the faith, love, and hope for which the apostle has just been expressing thanksgiving in vv3–8. This has triggered something for the apostle: not just thanksgiving for what God has done, but also prayer for what remains to be done—to be actually prepared and actually brought into that inheritance into which they have been adopted.

The Father has qualified them, now the apostle prays that He would fit them. In short, Paul prays that they would be made holy. The way v10 puts it is that they would walk worthy of the Lord. But let us not think that obedience is easy, for v11 tells us that in order to walk rightly, we need to be strengthened with almighty strength. And v11c–12a tells us the surprising (?) source of this strength: joy and thanksgiving. That brings us back to the "main" request in v9: that they would be filled with knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual understanding.

The more they understand, the more joyous and grateful they will be, which will strengthen them unto a life of good works in this knowledge of God. Putting this together, as the apostle prays for them to be filled with knowledge, he's giving us the content of theology, the fruit of theology, the usefulness of theology, and the result of theology.

The content of theology is "His will." This is the knowledge that is gained in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. More specifically, however, His will has been to adopt us as holy heirs (v12b–c). Such glad knowledge produces the fruit of theology: among other things, joy and thanksgiving. What gladness and gratitude belong to those whom the Father has adopted in contradiction to their unworthiness!

That brings us to the usefulness of the theology. Because this joy and thanksgiving are about what God has unstoppably determined, and because they come as the fruit of God's work, they are the means by which believers are empowered with God's own power: "strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power." We mightn't feel all-powerful, but the joy that we have is empowered by this limitless source. With unlimited power beneath us, and an unlosable inheritance in front of us, we can be patient and longsuffering through anything! Now that's useful theology.

Finally, the outcome of the theology. One false thing that I sometimes hear is that there are wicked people who have good theology. What they think or say may have some accurate features, but theology that is not lived can never be good. The knowledge that Paul prays for is not an end in itself, because it is ultimately knowledge of a Person, from a Person, for a purpose: "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work."

By the Lord's answering this prayer, the saints in Colossae would be made fit for glory, and would indeed come to partake in the inheritance for which Christ was their qualification from the Father. Theology that produces such an outcome: that's good theology. It's theology to pray for yourself to have, for all believers to have.

What place does learning theology have in your life? How much of the content is the Father's plan to bring you into the inheritance of the saints? What patience-strengthening joy do you get from it? What kind of life is it producing?

Sample prayer: Our Father, we adore Your glory. There can be nothing better than to know You and belong to You. And though we had sinned against this glory, You gave Your Son for us to qualify us to be Your adopted children. Forgive us for when we lose sight of how certain our salvation is—for when we become joyless, impatient, anxious, and lose our strength for serving You. Restore to us the joy of our salvation, and renew in us a right Spirit we ask, through Christ, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP1 "How Blessed the Man" or TPH433 "Amazing Grace"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Colossians chapter 1, our portion versus 9 through 12. These are the words of God for this reason. We also since the day, we heard it, do not see to pray for you. And to ask that, you may be filled with the knowledge of his will, and all wisdom and spiritual understanding that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing him being fruitful and every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Chapter 1 verse 11. Strengthened with all might according to his glorious power for all patients and long-suffering with joy. Giving thanks to the father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. So for the reading of God's inspired and inherent word, he starts on verse 9.

He says for this reason, we all. So since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you and he's talking about since the day, we heard of the Colossians faith and love, and hope that he was just talking about in the previous passage giving. Thanks for we give thanks to God and father of our largest Christ, praying, always for you etc, since we heard of your faith.

Now, in verse 90 says, for this reason, we also since the day, we heard it, do not cease to pray for you. So, when you hear about a work that God is doing first, you can thanks for that work. But the second of all you pray for that work to continue for that work and to be completed.

Now the work that begins with faith is carried out or conducted by means of knowledge, by means of theology. For this reason, we also since the day, we heard it to 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.

And so you heard that their faith has begun and he heard of their hope and love which showed that their faith was real. Now he's praying that their faith will continue. By means of theology that they would be actually prepared and actually brought into you the inheritance into which they have been adopted.

So you tell, he talked to them in verse five about the hope which is laid up for them in heaven and so they are going to inherit with all the saints and that's where we actually end in verse 12. Give me thanks to the father who is qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

So we are not qualified in and of ourselves. But God qualifies us. The father has qualified them. He has given them. Jesus is given them Jesus's righteousness. So that every time Jesus obeys or obeyed, it's counted. As if we hit obeyed and he has given Jesus's adoption Jesus. Assumption.

We are adopted children in the Lord, Jesus, so we become inheritors with him. So he's the one who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance. Love the saints in the light now, Paul prays that they would come into that part come into that inheritance, but in order to see the Lord, you must be holy.

This is what the whole Bible teaches and Hebrews, 12 was famously the holiness without which no one will see the Lord or to put a positively like first John 3 that we do. Not what we will be has not yet appeared but we know that we will be like him when he appears for.

We shall see him as he is, and those who hope that's purify themselves even as he is pure. So what is he praying? Why is he praying that they would have knowledge that they would be filled with knowledge. It is so that they would be made. Holy. Now, let us not think that obedience is easy and we might think, oh, well I'm joined to Jesus by faith.

I've been filled with the Holy Spirit or in dwelt. By the Holy Spirit obeying is going to be easy. Well, if you're a Christian, who has tried for any length of time, you've discovered, that obedience is not easy. It's not very surprising because what is he say? And verse 11 that he has hoping will happen by means of their increased theology, that they would be strengthened with all might according to his glorious power.

Okay? So, the Christian life is something that is impossible for anyone. But God, In order for them to become partakers of the inheritance of the saints. In the light, they have to be strengthened with all might according to his glorious power. If what we are trying to do is something that we are able to do then we're probably Pharisees, not Christians because the Christian life is something that can only be done by God's almighty power.

And so yes, those who hope thus, we just quoted from first John three purify themselves even as he is pure. But who can do that, only God, it's why in the previous epistle this apostle said, work out your own salvation with fear and gambling four, it is God. Who works in youth to will until work according to his good pleasure.

And that's what he's bringing some praying that God would work out their salvation. Is it something they're commanded to do? Yes, is something they have to participate in yes, but it's something that only God can do, but his almighty power. And so, it must be done independence upon him.

Now, if you're depending upon his strength, then you need to do it his way and his way is by using theology. I don't want to be a theologian, I just want to love, I just want to love God. I just want to love others. Theology. Divides and all this rubbish that is spoken against.

Good clear, rich theology from the Bible. First of all theology would be doing because God's Word is full of what he says. And if he said it is worth finding it out. But here the apostle shows, by the way that he is praying for these saints, that theology is God's way of transforming us, which he also says in Romans chapter 12, when he says, do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind or like the apostle Peter writes in his epistle that we are to grow by.

And it's a dative of her We could say in or we could say bye grow by the grace and the knowledge of our Lord. Jesus Christ. So theology is God's way of growing Christians. If you want to grow, if you want to partake of the inheritance come into the fullness of that, which Jesus has earned for you, then the way to it, the way that God has designed for that to come about is who theology now?

What is the content of theology? What is it that we study? When we study the Bible and we pursue this knowledge for which the apostle of spring. First of all, the the content of the theology is his will his will. We have right here is to adopt us as his holy ears to become for us to become partakers with the saints, partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

And if we know that this is as will, then we'll find not just that that's the content of the theology. But the fruit of the theology is that we actually start to become. Holy notice that it produces joy and thanksgiving and that the joy in the Thanksgiving. Make us able to be patient and long suffering.

So he says that you'd be strengthened with might according to his glories power for all patients and long suffering with joy giving. Thanks. Well, that's an interesting combination because if you are having exercise patients and long suffering are in the middle of easy, times are hard times hard times.

If you're having to exercise patients and long suffering are in the middle of pleasant times, you're painful times painful times and what do saints who are growing in the knowledge of God's will from God's word. How do they respond in times? That are hard that require patience and long suffering.

They respond with joy and thanksgiving and so since they are thanking God and rejoicing, they are freed not to try to escape their trouble, not to poor themselves into trying to pay back, whoever is troubling them. But to walk in a manner or the Lord. Verse 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.

So the more, you know, God and the more, you know, the gospel that he has given us sinners to become his own. Dear children in Jesus. Then the more even in times that require patience and lungs offering, you be able to rejoice and give thanks and you'll be free from your worry, in order to walk in good works.

And to, please God to walk worthy of the Lord and to be fully pleasing to him. And to be fruitful in every good work. So what is the apostle praying for? What should we pray for ourselves and for other Christians? And what should we pursue to learn what the Bible teaches.

So that even in the midst of hard and painful times, we can be rejoicing and giving. Thanks. Because what does the Bible teach that God has taken sinners to be his own dear children in Jesus Christ. And so when you're in difficult times, if you know, from the Bible that God has taken sinners to be his own dear children.

In Jesus Christ, you can still rejoice, you can still give thanks and you'll be free to pursue good works even in conditions like that. In fact, the more you do that the more you will know him and the more, you know, him the more you will be able to rejoice and give thanks and be filled with bring forth the fruit of good works and it's a virtuous spiral as the Lord continues and completes what he has done in us.

Let's pray.

Our father in heaven would pray that you would help us to know you to know your word. We pray. First of all, that the if there are any here in him, the work of faith has not been begun that you would give faith that you would say to each grant to them to know Christ as their own Savior.

And for all of us are God. We pray that you would increase our knowledge. Help us to understand more of your word and help us to understand better. The word of yours that we know, so that we will see how good you are and how great is your salvation for us and the Lord Jesus.

Lord. We thank you for forewarning, us about the hardness and the painfulness of the Christian life. And we ask that you would grant to us to cling to you, to cling to Christ in the gospel of your salvation and him. So that we will rejoice. So that we will give thanks to that.

We will be free to love you with all our heart, soul and mind and strength, to love our neighbor as ourselves do this. We ask in Jesus name, man.