**Colossians 1:9-14**

I. Introduction

A. The heart of this prayer is that the Colossians would “live a life worthy of the Lord” (v.10)

 1. = To live in a way that shows the worth of the Lord

 2. = To live in a way that shows just how valuable, amazing, and worthy Jesus is.

 B. Are we living in a way that reflects the worth of Jesus?

1. If someone could follow us around for two weeks into work, home, community, etc., would they conclude that Jesus is the most valuable and treasured person in our lives?

 2. While we all fall short of this, this is a prayer that we would grow in this.

II. A prayer for the knowledge of God’s will (v. 9)

A. Before we can live a life worthy, we have to know what that life is

B. This is not a prayer for God’s specific will in our lives (e.g. should I go to this school or that school), but rather for his will for our lives in general (as communicated in the Bible)

C. The Colossians had been pagans prior to their conversion and they lived in the midst of the diverse worldviews of the Roman Empire. They needed spiritual discernment to know God’s view and perspective on things.

D. We need this spiritual discernment today (Romans 12:2)

1. We need God’s perspective on money, sexuality, work, marriage, technology, etc.

2. This discernment comes from reflection on Scripture and from the Spirit

III. So that you live lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him (v. 10)

A. Simply put, our goal is to please the Lord Jesus with our lives

B. We should run every decision through the grid of: “is this something Jesus would say ‘yes, well done!’ to?”

-eg. What I’m about to say, what I’m about to purchase, what I’m about to watch, etc.

IV. Three examples of a worthy life that pleases Jesus (v. 10-12)

 A. A spiritually productive life

1. v. 10: In every good work “bearing fruit and growing” in the know

2. Our spiritual lives should be lives of growth and fruitfulness, not lives of dormancy and stagnation

3. God is the source of spiritual growth and fruit, so our first responsibility is to pray for him to do this work

4. Personal example: “I didn’t initiate any of the major growth areas of my life. God always initiated it.”

 B. A life of powerful perseverance

1. Paul uses 4 power words: strengthened, power, glorious, might. The Christian life is a life of experiencing God’s power

2. That power works perseverance and patience (= sticking in difficult situations and with difficult people and demonstrating grace, courage, and faithfulness)

3. Example of perseverance: Tom from “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”

4. Our culture doesn’t value these qualities. We don’t like putting up with much, and we want things changed quickly. That’s why we need God’s power to live lives of patience and perseverance.

C. A life of joyful thanksgiving

1. Paul reminds us of the greatest reason for our joy in v. 12-14

2. He regularly reminds us to be thankful (see Colossians 2:7, 3:15, 3:17, 4:2)

3. It is appropriate to acknowledge pain, sadness, and confusion, but underneath these, we still live lives of joy and thanksgiving

**Discussion Questions**

1. In your own words discuss what it means to “live a life worthy of the Lord.” How was that discussed on Sunday, and what would you add to or change in that discussion?

2. Consider the idea of running every decision through the grid of whether Jesus would look at that decision and be pleased and say “well done, good and faithful servant.” Where does that bring encouragement to you, and where does that bring conviction?

3. In all of this, Paul is praying for God to do the work that only He can do in people’s lives. On Sunday Dave made the comment: “I didn’t initiate any of the major growth areas of my life. God always initiated it.” Does your own experience line up with that or not? What is God’s role and what is our role in our own personal growth?

4. Consider the three examples of a worthy life that Paul mentions (Points IV. A, B, and C). Which of those do you most connect with at this time? Which of those do you most need prayer for?