

## Colossians 1:9-14

### Introduction

“Live a life worthy of the Lord”: “live” is literally “walk around”  
Life is a journey: are you “walking around” through this life well?

### Passage

#### I. Introduction to the passage

- A. Written to the Colossian church which was founded by Epaphras
- B. Paul begins by thanking God for His work in their lives (v. 3-8)
- C. “For this reason”: his prayer is linked to his thanksgiving

#### II. A prayer for the “knowledge of his will” (v. 9)

- A. Paul is not praying for a narrow knowledge of God’s will (like when we have some impending choice on whether to take a job or not or go to this school or that school, etc)
- B. Rather, a general knowledge of his will (how He desires us to live in general)
  - 1. We’ve been rescued from the “dominion of darkness” and transferred to the “kingdom of light” (v. 12b-13)
  - 2. So we should live as those in the light who see clearly (Romans 12:2)
  - 3. “through all spiritual wisdom and understanding” (v. 9)
    - a. This comes from God: gives you eyes to see
    - b. “Wisdom” = seeing things as they truly are  
= the way God sees them
- C. The world sees things one way, but God sees things another way  
And we are to have our minds transformed so we see them God’s way  
Example: children, money, sex, etc

#### III. In order that “you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him” (v. 10)

- A. “worthy of the Lord”
  - 1. Worthy of who all that he is (magnificent, glorious, incredible)
  - 2. Worthy of all that he’s done (sacrifice himself for us for our forgiveness)
- B. “please him in every way”  
This is the equivalent of living a life worthy of him
- C. We are saved BY grace but saved FOR a life pleasing to the Lord  
See Eph 2: 8-10; Titus 2:14; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
- D. What would it look like to walk into every situation saying:
  - 1. “I’ve been saved from an old life and I belong to him”
  - 2. “What would please him? What would be worthy of him?”  
Examples: job, tv watching, conversation, shopping, retirement, etc
- E. Two things to remember as we try to live lives worthy of/pleasing to the Lord
  - 1. The motivation is gratitude for God’s grace, not a sense of having to live up to some impossible standard
  - 2. The power to live this life comes from God, not ourselves

#### IV. Three examples of what a worthy life looks like

##### A. "In every good work bearing fruit and growing in the knowledge of God" (v. 10)

1. Bearing fruit: see Gen 1:28 and Col 1:6
  - a. fruit = inner fruit of the spirit and outer fruit of our impact on others
  - b. ask yourselves: "what is the fruit of this action of mine?"
2. Growing in the knowledge of God  
This is not just Bible Study/theological knowledge but the knowledge we gain as we actually follow the Lord practically in life

##### B. "being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might for endurance and patience"

1. "endurance" = "to stand fast, persevere, bear patiently"  
Used in battle: hold your position in battle against enemy attacks  
Face difficulty, hardship, suffering without caving in
2. "patience" = "long-suffering"  
Being able to suffer many things without retaliating
3. These are not glitzy, flashy qualities in today's world of the quick fix, but they are the qualities we need because life is a marathon, not a sprint
4. These qualities don't come from ourselves, but from God

##### C. "joyfully giving thanks to the Father"

1. Christian life is not just about endurance in the midst of suffering, it also involves joy and thanksgiving
2. God's desire is NOT that we'd be grouchy, cynical, ungrateful, but rather full of joy, gratitude, and thanksgiving
3. Notice, the things that are to bring us joy are not primarily circumstantial blessings but rather the deeper things: our salvation, our forgiveness (v. 12-14)

#### Conclusion

Approach each day this week asking yourself:

How can I please the Lord in my actions today?

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. It was argued on Sunday that Paul's prayer for "a knowledge of God's will" should be understood as Paul praying that the Colossians would have God's perspective/viewpoint on life issues in general. In your mind, in what areas of life (what issues in life) does the church most need to be aligned with God's perspective? Where is the contemporary church most in danger of living out of a different perspective than God's?
2. It was argued on Sunday that 1) we have been saved BY grace apart from anything we do but 2) we are saved FOR works ( for a life that is pleasing to the Lord). Based on passages such as Eph 2:8-10, Titus 2:14, 2 Cor 5:14-15, how would you articulate that tension?

3. When you consider walking through your life asking the simple question: “what would be worthy of the Lord/what would please the Lord,” what area/issue first pops into your mind as an area you would want to change/improve on?

4. Paul prays for a life that is fruitful and growing in the knowledge of God. Would you describe this season of life you’re in as a “spiritually fruitful” season? A spiritually dry season? In what ways has it been fruitful? In what ways would you like to see more fruit?

5. Where do you need endurance and patience right now?