

Jesus Is Lord – Of Us (Part 2)

Colossians 1:9-14



Intro

BO:

Engage: I recently heard someone complain that they have such a hard time keeping up with email because they get over 100 emails a day. Of course the majority of those are advertisements and not needed emails from people. This makes it difficult to find the emails that are important. I wanted to share with them that it doesn't have to be that way. I didn't used to know this but it's actually illegal to send bulk emails as a company without a way to unsubscribe on every single email that they send. I know this because when we started sending emails through the company called MailChimp for youth group then you are required to put an unsubscribe button. If this person would simply start unsubscribing from all the junk mail that they get they wouldn't be drowning in email.

THT: Knowing the truth makes all the difference.

Back: Last week I introduced you to a little town along the Lycus river valley named Colossae. This town was really just a pit stop along the way to bigger cities. The only reason this town is recorded in history is that there were Christians here. A man named Epaphras had heard Paul telling of Jesus in the bigger city of Ephesus. So Epaphras spread the word of truth, the gospel, to this city. They heard the gospel and understood it. This small city had a small church but had some big problems. In fact, Epaphras asked Paul the apostle to write a letter to this church to address the problems. There were some or someone who was deceiving this church about true faith. There was another situation going on too. A slave had run away from his master but had been converted to Christianity and so was returning to his master in this little town. Paul sends this slave and a messenger named Tychicus to deliver a letter to the slave owner, named Philemon, and also a letter to this little town church of the Colossians.

Review: Last week you may remember we looked at Paul's greeting to the Colossians along with his thanksgiving to God when he prays because of their faith in Christ for salvation, love for the saints, because of their hope of heaven.

Pass: This week we're going to look at Colossians 1:9-14

Prvw: I'd like to look at Paul's Prayer and then My Prayer for you!

THT: Knowing the truth makes all the difference.

Paul's Prayer

Greeting: Thanksgiving:

Prayer: So Paul shifts to how he and Timothy thank God for the Colossians to how they pray to God FOR them.

Read: *9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

Ex: Since Paul and Timothy heard of the Colossians faith from Epaphras they haven't stopped praying for two things. For God to fill them up and for a walk that reflects that filling up.

1. First what are they supposed to be filled up with? The knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding. In other words, first Paul prays they would know God's will from their own. Filled with knowledge.

III: Have you ever had your eyes opened up to something? It's like so many junior highs who think that they are good at literally everything. Of course I'm going to run on the track team, didn't you know I'm fast? Of course, usually by high school you have figured out the reality. This is Paul's prayer for them. God open their eyes to see the world as it really is. They used to think with human wisdom. If I get myself networked with the right crowd then I'll get rich or be popular. Human wisdom is about what's best for me. Paul asks God for their eyes to be open to spiritual wisdom. How do I honor God in this? They could see how a life of purity, evangelism, discipleship, worship, generosity, and love actually translates into real life situations.

Exam: I'd like to give you a very real example from my life this week. We just started youth group up again. We've got what I'd like to see become an evangelistic event in the drive in movie theater and it's like I just want a lot of

people to come to it. I'd like it to be a big event so I can recover some of the money that we paid to make it happen, a big event so others in the church can see how many people came and I can look good, a big event so that it shows how good I am at putting on events. My eyes were opened this week to be thinking about it differently. What if this was about being distinctly Christian in how we party? What if it was about actually desiring that some might hear a testimony of Christ's work in a life and so turn and repent of their sin and begin to walk with the Lord. I believe my eyes are being opened to God's will for an event like this. Not my but his glory.

Trans: So why does Paul pray for them to be filled with this knowledge of God's will? Verse 10 SOO...

Read: **10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him:**

2. We come to our second thing Paul prays for the Colossians. A walk and life that reflects knowledge of God's will.

Ex: So Paul's big prayer is for them to walk the walk of the Christian life. But what does that look like to be fully pleasing to God? **4 ways:** That they would bear fruit, increase in knowledge, be strengthened, and give thanks

Set Up: They would have knowledge so they would walk in a manner worthy of the Lord by: Fruit, knowledge, strength, and thanks.

Fruit: Know God's will so that good works actually produce. When I'm telling someone about Jesus not according to God's will then it's about winning an argument but knowing God's will then it's about sharing the new life that's found in Jesus and how dying to yourself is better by far. When someone is broken in sin then I don't try and fix them but rather show God's love for them that will lead them to repentance. God loves while we are sinners and his love is the primary motivation for repenting of sin. When I know God's will accurately then real life change happens but when I go off my own understanding then I'm like the blind leading the blind. I see this with "accountability" with high schoolers all the time. We know God's will so that good works actually produce fruit.

Know: Know God's will so that I increase in the knowledge of God. Knowing God isn't just a means to an end but an end in itself. Some think. I'll know God more so that way I can be a better person or help orphans in Africa. Knowing God is an act of worship itself. God wants us to know him as he's revealed himself and not our own construct of what we want him to be. To walk in a manner worthy of the Lord means that I am increasing my knowledge of who God is, how he has in the past and continues to work. We know God's will so that we can know him more.

Strength: Third, we know God's will to be strengthened by God. What is God's will in hardship?

Phil 4: 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Heb.12:7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?... 11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

To know God's will helps us walk in a manner worthy of the Lord as we are strengthened by his might.

Thanks: Lastly we know God's will to produce thankfulness for what God has done. The verses actually explain why they should be thankful. Because God has qualified them for heaven and Jesus paid the price for them to be transferred from darkness to light.

My Prayer

Tran: Paul's prayer for the Colossians is pretty all encompassing that they would be filled with the knowledge of God's will so that they would walk in a manner worthy of the lord, bearing fruit, increasing in knowledge, strengthened in God's power, and giving thanks to God for transferring them from darkness to light. I was thinking about what I pray for you as students.

1. The first thing I pray for you is to be actively learning the message of the book of Colossians. Of course I'd love for the words that I say to make a difference to you but my prayer is that you guys would take this book and study it and learn it for yourselves what Paul was trying to show the Colossians about following Jesus. That Jesus isn't just a part of life but is your life if you're a Christian. If you don't currently have a bible reading plan then track with us
2. Secondly, that God would open your eyes to be able to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and stop a sinful lifestyle. Three key areas among the students of Grace Church that are not the Lord's will for their lives:
 - a. First is friendships. I so long for you guys to be different than the way I was in high school. Friendships were about being united around my false idols. Friends are for playing my favorite video game, playing

ping pong, or just so I can be affirmed in someone else liking me. Friendships were about false gods. My prayer is that you would unite with friends on a deeper level of true Christian community, as a mentor, or even as someone that you are able to share the gospel to. Friendships need to look different.

- b. Second is priorities. If we saw real Christian community as only half as important as a sports team or even simply attending Church then there would be a real difference in the spiritual growth of Christians. And if we saw evangelism one tenth as important as the apostle Paul then there wouldn't be any cases like the girl who recently told me that she made it through Morton high school never hearing the gospel of Jesus. If we longed to know God through his Word as much as we longed to have fun with friends, we'd be on fire worshiping him. If we saw coming to church as important as going to practice we'd have a lot more opportunities to be hearing of God's will for our lives.
- c. Third is false beliefs. It's so easy for us to buy they lies that our flesh tells us is true. I'm good enough because God made me this way. No... I'm good enough only through Jesus righteousness applied to me. I'm worthless. No... God has made us in his image and as an image bearer of God I have value.