

Evidence of a Life Fully Pleasing to God -1

Colossians 1:10-11

All Stand and Read Scripture

Colossians 1:9-14 (NASB)

⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

¹³ For He rescued 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.

Prayer

INTRODUCTION:

Today we are returning to the book of Colossians. When we read these verses, it is very characteristic of Paul's writing. He likes to use VERY long sentences.

In the last two messages from the book of Colossians we looked at:

Why we should have a

1. **Desire for a Life Fully Pleasing to God.**

Our desire to serve the Lord comes when we finally understand and become thankful for what Christ was willing to do to reconcile us back to God.

¹³ For He rescued 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.

and what is the

2. **Source of a Life Fully Pleasing to God.**

Our source on how to live a life fully pleasing to God is from God's Word, the Bible.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NASB)

¹⁶ All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)

12 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.* ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove (know) what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

How can we be transformed by the renewing of our mind?

We are instructed that the scriptures were written by men through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and is the inspired Word of God. The Bible is our sole authority on how Christ wants all mankind to live while we are on earth. It is our source for spiritual knowledge and wisdom that the world cannot know. When we read and study God's Word, our mind will be renewed with spiritual truth and wisdom.

The prayer that we just read in verses 9 and 10 gives an insight into what Paul's heart or attitude was for the Colossians. I pray that we will use his prayer as an example of how we should live and how we should pray for others.

Paul's prayer was not a selfish prayer. His prayer was that the Colossians would continue to mature in Christ in three ways:

- Knowledge of the Scriptures
- Understanding of the Scriptures
- Wisdom to Apply God's Word to their lives.

The source of these attributes originates from God's Word and is perfected within us through the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:9b-10 (NASB)

⁹ we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will

Once we have embedded God's Word in our heart, we look at life as an opportunity to serve God.

So, we MUST be students of God's Word. Your life will not be fully pleasing to God if you are not a student of God's Word.

When we face various situations daily, we should be thinking (with this renewed mind) how we can use this situation to serve the Lord. This is how we hear God speaking **His will** to us each day. We take that situation and through the help of the Holy Spirit, who was given to us when we accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior, we apply God's Word to the situation and do as His Word says.

in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

It is one thing to read and even memorize the scripture. It is quite another to have an understanding of the scripture. You have no doubt heard people quote scripture that was taken out of context and obviously did not understand what

it was saying. Paul not only wanted them to have a knowledge of the scripture, but he also wanted them to understand it.

He also prayed that they would have the wisdom to apply God's Word in their lives. We can KNOW scripture and UNDERSTAND scripture, but unless we have the wisdom to USE the scripture in our lives, it is of NO VALUE.

¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects,

It is when we listen to God's will and act upon His guidance through spiritual knowledge and wisdom that we begin to "**walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**". This is the end result of our service to the Lord.

The scriptures tell us that when we accepted Christ in our life, that we are **no longer our own**. We have been **bought with a price** by Christ's death on the cross. We are to **love God** with all of our hearts and serve only Him. We are to live a life fully pleasing to God.

Matthew 16:24-26 (NASB)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

In today's message we will plan to learn one of the ways our Christian life should

3. **Exhibit the Evidence of a Life Fully Pleasing to God.**

BODY:

I. Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

Colossians 1:10 (NASB)

¹⁰ so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, **bearing fruit in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Paul tells us that if we are "**walking in a manner worthy of the Lord**" that one of the evidences of that walk is that we will be "**bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**"

It is apparent to me that many churches today are not putting enough emphasis on a "**walk in a manner worthy of the Lord**". We put too much emphasis on accepting Christ as our Savior, but not as our Lord. We want to grasp onto the **eternal salvation** that Christ provided for us on Calvary, but we do not want to **serve** Him as our Lord.

The scriptures tell us that we are saved by grace. It is only through Christ and His death on the cross as a perfect sacrifice for our sins that our sins can be wiped clean. We cannot earn our salvation on our own by our works, because we are incapable of living a perfect sinless life. So Christ came to earth to reconcile us back to God. We are saved by His grace and are forgiven of our sins because of His death on the cross even though we do not deserve that forgiveness.

The problem is that many Christians and even Christian leaders today will tell you that since our works cannot save you, then there is no need to worry about **servicing** Christ. All you have to do is believe and accept God's grace.

But, my Bible does not read that way.

Paul says in verse 10 that we must "**walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work**". In other words, if we are a Christian who is "**denying himself, and taking up his cross and following Christ**", we will be "**bearing fruit in every good work**".

It is only when we **know and do** God's will that we can **be fully pleasing to Him**. When we do God's will we will bear fruit for Him.

This work is not something that we do in order to try to gain POINTS for our salvation, it is an end result of living a life fully pleasing to God.

James, the brother of Christ, made it perfectly clear.

James 2:14-18 (NASB)

¹⁴ What use is it, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but he has no works? Can that faith save him? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is without clothing and in need of daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and be filled," and yet you do not give them what is necessary for *their* body, what use is that? ¹⁷ Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, *being* by itself.

¹⁸ But someone may *well* say, "You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works."

A true faith will desire to produce fruits. Our faith is based upon a true love of God and for His Son. We tend to see works based upon an external view. God sees works based upon the attitude of our heart. We might DO things to catch the attention of men, but God will know your heart. You cannot deceive God!

That is what James meant when he said, "**I will show you my faith by my works.**"

Jesus gave a very good explanation of the works that He is expecting from us.

John 15:1-6 (NASB)

15 “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶ If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

Our fruits are only possible when we allow God to work through us. There is nothing that we can do on our own that can produce good fruit. If we are not doing God's will, we are accomplishing nothing.

Jesus also spoke of the importance of working in the parable of the talents in Matt. 25.

A man about to go on a journey entrusted three of his slaves with a lot of money. To one slave he gave five talents; to another 2 talents; and to a third 1 talent. When the master returned from his journey the slave with five talents had earned an additional five talents and the slave with two talents had earned two additional talents. The slave with one talent buried the talent and gave only that talent back to the man.

To the first two slaves, the master said

Matthew 25:21 (NASB)

²¹ ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’

But to the slave with one talent, the master said

Matthew 25:28-30 (NASB)

²⁸ Therefore take away the talent from him, and give it to the one who has the ten talents.’

²⁹ “For to everyone who has, *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but from the one who does not have, even what he does have shall be taken away. ³⁰ Throw out the worthless slave into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

As we go about our daily walk in life, we are faced with different situations. As each situation comes up, we should be considering in a prayerful mind how I can use this situation to most glorify God. When we face those situations, God has promised that the Holy Spirit will use our knowledge and understanding of the scriptures to give us the spiritual wisdom to make the proper decisions that we should or should not make. Through the Holy Spirit, we will encounter people who need to know the Lord. If we are living faithfully for Him, they will

see Christ in us through our actions and words. He will give us the words to say if we are willing to obediently serve Him.

Just like the slaves, when we work for the Lord, more will be given to us. Paul, at the end of verse 10, tells us that as we obediently serve Christ, that service will cause us to mature in our faith and we will gain an "increased knowledge of God;"

CONCLUSION:

Matthew 16:24-26 (NASB)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

In order to live a life **fully pleasing to God** you must "deny yourself, and take up your cross and follow Christ".

We should be striving to

- Understand His Word
- Seek His Wisdom
- Do His Will
- Bear Fruit for the Lord

Only then we can live a life FULLY PLEASING TO GOD!

God is not willing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance. Christ died on the cross, was buried, and rose again on the third day. God sacrificed His son so that we could have forgiveness of sins.

Christ died for **all** of our sins once for all. But, unless you accept Him as your Lord and Savior and live by His WILL, you will not receive the forgiveness of sins that He died to forgive for you.

John 14:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.

We must be careful to embrace all of Christ's commandments in the scripture. We cannot accept one and reject another simply because it does not fit into our "belief system".

One of Christ's commandments is found in

Acts 2:38 (NASB)

³⁸ Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Peter told the Jews on the day of Pentecost that to receive forgiveness of sins we must repent of our sins and be immersed in water baptism and the Holy Spirit will come into our lives.

It is important to note that there is nothing magical about the baptismal water. Just being immersed into water by itself will not save you. You must also live a life pleasing to God as we talked about today. The important part is that this is a commandment that is required in the scriptures. If we love God, we will keep His commandments.

II Kings 5 talks about a king named Naaman who had leprosy who went to Elisha to be cured.

2 Kings 5:10-14 (NASB)

¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh will be restored to you and *you will be clean.*" ¹¹ But Naaman was furious and went away and said, "Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.' ¹² Are not Abanah and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ Then his servants came near and spoke to him and said, "My father, had the prophet told you *to do some great thing*, would you not have done *it*? How much more *then*, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" ¹⁴ So he went down and dipped *himself* seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was clean.

When Naaman chose not to wash in the Jordan seven times, he went away mad **and with all of his leprosy**. It was only when he obeyed that the leprosy went away. The Jordan river did not cleanse him, the water was not miraculous. It was God. It just required an humbling act of obedience to be cured.

That is how baptism works. The water does not save you. You are saved because of the grace of Christ and because you were willing to humble yourself before the Lord and obey His commands.

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, do it today. Don't wait until you have cleaned up your life. **You don't clean yourself up to come to the Christ; you surrender yourself to Christ, to let Him clean you up!**

If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior and you are still living like the world and not living a life fully pleasing to God. I urge you to seek the will of God in your life and start submitting to His will in your life. You are either **"dead to sin"** or you are **"dead in sin"**. There is no in between.

The Family of God

I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God.
I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by His blood!
Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod,
For I'm part of the family, the family of God.