

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God

Colossians 1:9-12

07/27/14
by Bob DeWaay

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God

Colossians 1:9-12

by Bob DeWaay
Gospel of Grace Fellowship

July 27, 2014

Paul's Prayer for the Colossians

Colossians 1:9a (NET)

For this reason we also, from the day we heard about you, have not ceased **praying** for you and **asking** God . . .

- Paul had heard of their fruit bearing faith
- Paul prayed continually for churches associated with him
- "Praying" and "asking" are synonymously parallel

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12 2

Filled With the Knowledge of God's Will

Colossians 1:9b (NASB)

. . . that you may be filled with the **knowledge** of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

- "may be filled" is a divine passive (by God)
- "knowledge" is *epigno_sis* not occult *gnosis*
- "God's Will" is not personal directive guidance, but God's purposes in Christ for His own
- In the OT "wisdom and understanding" are from the Spirit

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12 3



Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God

Colossians 1:9-12

07/27/14
by Bob DeWaay

Bearing Fruit and Growing

Colossians 1:10 (NASB)

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**;

- Our spiritual growth IS pleasing to the Lord
- True wisdom and knowledge in the Christian leads to right action
- “knowledge” is again *epigno_sis* and is used four times in Colossians (1:9; 1:10; 2:2; 3:10)

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12

4

God's Mighty Power

Colossians 1:11 (NKJV)

strengthened with all **might**, according to His glorious **power**, for all patience and **longsuffering** with joy;

- Longsuffering is part of God's nature (Exodus 34:6)
- Longsuffering is a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22)
- Therefore this is a communicable attribute of God
- Our patience should be joyful!

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12

5

The Inheritance of the Saints

Colossians 1:12 (NASB)

giving thanks to the Father, who has **qualified us to share in the inheritance** of the saints **in light**.

- God qualifies sinners to have a lot in the eternal inheritance
- We have already entered the realm of the kingdom of light
- We share the inheritance of the people of promise

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12

6



Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God

Colossians 1:9-12

07/27/14
by Bob DeWaay

Implications and Applications

- We should pray even concerning what is known to be God's will
- Full spiritual knowledge is revealed by God through His Word
- God qualifies sinners to join the people of God

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12

7

Prayers According to God's Will

Ephesians 6:18-20 (NASB)

With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and **pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me** in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; **that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12

8

Full Knowledge Is Revealed Through the Gospel

2Peter 1:8, 9 (NASB)

For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you **neither useless nor unfruitful** in the **true knowledge** of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short-sighted, **having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12

9



Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God Colossians 1:9-12

07/27/14
by Bob DeWaay

God Qualifies Sinners to Be His People

Acts 26:18 (NASB)

to open their eyes so that they may **turn from darkness to light** and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may **receive forgiveness of sins** and **an inheritance** among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

- This bookends Luke/Acts with Luke 1:77-79
- Now Gentiles participate in God's salvation and the promised inheritance

Prayer for the Full Knowledge of God: Colossians 1:9-12

10

