

WHAT CHRIST WANTS FOR HIS CHURCH
PART 4-“INCREASE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD”
COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

Introduction:

The last three messages we acknowledged that each of us have desires and goals for our Church. However, we’ve said that it is not our desires and goals that we should be concerned with, it is Christ’s desires and goals.

His desires may be just a bit different than our desires.

We asked the question “*What Does Christ Want For The Church?*”

He used the Apostle Paul To Tell Us:

CHRIST WANTS HIS CHURCH BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL! (VS 9)

CHRIST WANTS HIS CHURCH TO WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD! (VS 10)

CHRIST WANTS HIS CHURCH TO BE FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK! (VS 10)

**Today we want to look at Christ’s next desire for His Church:
CHRIST WANTS HIS CHURCH TO INCREASE IN THE
KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! (VS 10)**

I. UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS TALKING ABOUT MORE THAN JUST INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GOD.

The word translated “*knowledge*” means “*recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgment.*”

Remember me saying that one of the reasons for Paul writing this book was **to expose the heresy of the Gnostics?**

Gnostics valued the accumulation of knowledge, but Paul points out to the Colossians AND TO US that knowledge in itself is empty!

What good is knowledge if it doesn’t lead to a changed life and right living? **Knowledge is meant to be applied!**

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A. We’ve Already Seen How Paul Prayed That This Church Would Be Filled With The Knowledge Of God’s Will. (Vs 9)

Now, we know that **the knowledge of God’s will is essential in order to do the will of God!**

It just stands to reason that we can’t **do** the will of God unless we first **know** what the will of God is!

In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul put it this way:
Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

(e.g. Think of how ludicrous it would be for a parent to chastise a child for not doing what the parent wanted when the child had not been informed of what the parent wanted!)

B. Christ Not Only Wants Us To Be Filled With The Knowledge Of God’s Will, He Wants Us To DO His Will!

1. Christ Wants Us To Be Knowledgeable, But He Also Wants Us To Use The Knowledge We Have!
He wants us not only to learn ABOUT Him, but He wants us to please Him by the way we live!
That’s Why God Holds All Men Responsible For Their Sin!

a. God Holds The Heathen Responsible. (Psalm 19:1-2; Romans 1:18-22; Proverbs 1:20-33 “*regarded*” or “*acknowledged*”)

b. God Held The Children Of Israel Responsible. (Hosea 4:6-7; 6:6)

c. God Holds Believers Responsible.

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2 Peter 3:18-“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”

2. **The More Knowledge We Have About God, The More We Should Be Becoming Like God!**

2 Corinthians 3:18 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

As we see and understand the truths about Christ, **those truths should transform us more into His likeness as we apply them in our lives!**

It is through Christ’s life that we come to understand how wonderful God is and what He is really like!

As our knowledge of Christ deepens, the indwelling Holy Spirit helps us change into His likeness as we walk in the Spirit!

The more closely we follow Christ, the more we will be like him!

So, we are to UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS TALKING ABOUT MORE THAN JUST INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GOD. And this brings us to our second point:

II. **UNDERSTAND THAT THIS IS TALKING MORE ABOUT INCREASING IN THE EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. (Phillipians 3:10)**

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What its talking about here is that **as we go through trials and testings we come to know God more and better through those trials and testings!**

Let me give you some Examples:

1. **Abraham offering Isaac on Mount Moriah. (Genesis 22:13-14)**
(Abraham came to know God that day as “*Jehovah-jireh*” or “*the LORD will provide*”)
2. **Moses before Pharaoh. (Exodus 3:10-12; 19-21)**
(The LORD was going to make it clear that He was with Moses and that He was the one Who was bringing about His will!)
3. **Moses and the Children of Israel in the battle with Amalek. (Exodus 17:8-16)** (They came to know God that day as “*Jehovah-nissi*” - “*The LORD my banner.*”)
4. **Job going through his trials. (Job 40:3-5; 42:1-6)**
(It caused him to see himself as he was and to understand the LORD in a better way.)
5. **Paul and his thorn in the flesh. (2 Corinthians 12:7-10)**

Conclusion

Paul’s desire (and I believe Christ’s desire) was that this Church, even while it was in the midst of the evil influences that it was being subjected to:

1. Be in the will of the Lord.
2. Be in the walk of the Lord.
3. Be in the worship of our Lord.

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How can we do that?

1. *BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL.*
2. *WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD.*
3. *BE FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK.*
4. *INCREASE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.*
Not Just Knowledge About God!

But, Experiential Knowledge Of God!