## Colossians 1:1-14

In the first 14 verses of Colossians we find only 4 periods.

- 1. One after verse 2
- 2. One after verse 8
- 3. One after verse 12
- 4. One after verse 14

We have given each of the 4 sentences a title.

# I. Greetings v1-2

# II. Thanksgiving v3-8

Now, this morning we will look at the final 6 verses...2 sentences.

# III. Prayers v9-12

What are they praying for...that the saints and faithful brethren at Colossae would be filled with the knowledge of God's will....

This is likely the number 1 question asked by followers of Christ.

- 1. What is God's will? I just want to know God's will.
- 2. We treat it like it is a mystery that we must search high and low to find...as if God has hidden it from us.
- 3. Here Paul says that "we" (he and Timothy and maybe Epaphras and the other workers) 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.

God wants us to know His will...no! He wants us to be FILLED with the knowledge of His will.

- 1. Now, if He wants that for us, then would He hide it from us? Would he make it like an obstacle course, a mystery, a complicated system?
- 2. No. It must be clear and easily accessible.
  - a. The problem might be that it isn't what we want to hear.
  - b. The problem might be that we are over-complicating things.
- 3. He wants us to not just know His will, but to be filled with the knowing of His will.

## A simple formula

1. Be faithful in prayer and in reading the Scriptures

a. <u>2 Thessalonians 2:13</u> But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

- b. Go to Scripture with the help of the Spirit until You hear from God.
- c. There is His will. Just like that. That is how sanctification happens!
- d. Not in studying the Puritans (they might edify) but the Scriptures sanctify.

e. <u>Romans 12:2</u> Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- 2. Seek counsel from those who are faithful in prayer and in reading the Scriptures.
- 3. Look at the situation and circumstances. Does God provide? Give opportunity? etc.
- 4. Take action trusting that God is Sovereign and good.
  - a. Have faith, take risks, trust that the Lord isn't sitting on ready to punish you for taking a "wrong turn" in an attempt to do His will.
  - b. He wants you to be filled with the knowledge of His will so He will help you.

Why does Paul pray this? So that they might walk worthy (v10). What does that look like?

### 1. Please Him

- a. Fully pleasing. Do you want to please Him?
- b. Be filled with the knowledge of His will...and act on it.

## 2. Glorify Him

- a. Not just doing every good work, but bearing fruit in every good work!
- b. God wants fruit! John 15
- c. We will not bear "much fruit" living life like everyone else...staying in the spiritual "safe zone."
- d. No, we must be filled with the knowledge of His will....and act on it!

## 3. Know Him

- a. And Increasing in the knowledge of God
- b. And...not or...but and. It is all 3
- c. The fruit bearing of the gospel is not like corn, which having borne fruit dies, even to its roots, but like a tree, which bears fruit and at the same time continues to grow.
  - d. Do you want to know Him? be filled with the knowledge of His will....and act on it!
  - e. When we take action...that is when we really get to know Him!
  - f. It is in the trenches...on the adventure of walking in His will that we get to know Him.

## 4. Be Empowered by Him

- a. Be empowered to exercise steadfastness—the ability to deal victoriously with anything that life can do to us.
- b. Power to exercise patience—This is patience with people. It is the spirit which never loses patience with, and hope for men.
- c. So Paul prays for them to be empowered to exercise a steadfastness which no situation can defeat, and a patience which no person can defeat.
- d. And do it all with joy and thanksgiving

## IV. Deliverance v13-14

We are going to pick up this theme next week, because Paul transitions from this statement into a deeper discussion of this deliverance provided for us by Christ.

## Acts 26:16-20