

Worship of the Church – Prayer Col. 1:9-18

Thesis: To help us better understand prayer in our worship.

Introduction:

- A. Throughout the Bible, we do not see very many examples of public prayer.
 - 1. We do, however, see several prayers that are offered to God.
 - 2. In these prayers, we can learn certain principles about what God expects from our public prayers.
- B. Paul has already said that he was thankful for the church in Colosse (1:3-8).
- C. In our text, Paul is going to tell them exactly what he has been praying for on their behalf.

I. In our prayers, we pray that we “may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (1:9).

A. Being “filled with the knowledge of His will” is extremely important because of the salvation that is obtained in it.

- 1. Mt. 7:21 (Only those that do the will of the Father will be saved) - **Not everyone who says to Me, “Lord, Lord,” shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**
- 2. If we do the will of the Father, we will have a home in heaven.
 - a. I Tim. 2:3-4 - For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, {4} who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
 - b. II Pet. 3:9 - The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
- 3. Being “filled with the knowledge of His will” is extremely important.
- 4. The point is that if we are going to be saved, we must “be filled with the knowledge of His will.”
- 5. We can only gain this knowledge by reading and studying His word.
 - a. Col. 3:16 - Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.
 - b. II Tim. 2:15 - Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
 - c. II Pet. 3:18 - but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

B. Not only do we need “the knowledge of His will,” but we need it “in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”

1. While we gain the knowledge of His will by reading and studying His word, we can only gain wisdom and spiritual understanding by prayer.
2. **Js. 1:5** (this wisdom comes only from God) - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.
3. It is this wisdom that is going to allow us to apply that knowledge to our lives.

When we pray, we pray that we “may be filled with the knowledge of His will.”

II. In our prayers, we pray that we “may walk worthy of the Lord” (1:10).

A. As we obtain “the knowledge of His will,” we must apply that knowledge to our lives.

1. When we apply that knowledge, we will “have a walk worthy of the Lord.”
2. **Eph. 4:1-3** - I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, {2} with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, {3} endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
3. This is the application of the knowledge that we receive when we read and study His word.

B. Paul tells us that there are several things that happen when we “walk worthy of the Lord.”

1. When we “walk worthy of the Lord,” we are fully pleasing to Him.
 - a. It is important to do what is pleasing to God.
 - 1) **II Cor. 5:9** - Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.
 - 2) In all situations, we should do what is pleasing to God.
 - b. To please God means that we do what He commands us to do.
 - 1) **I Sam. 15:22** - Then Samuel said: “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams.”
 - 2) **I Jn. 3:22** - And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.
 - 3) We cannot be pleasing to God if we do not obey Him.
2. When we “walk worthy of the Lord,” we will be “fruitful in every good work.”
 - a. To bear fruit means that we are profitable to God.
 - b. **Jn. 15:1-2** (Jesus uses an example to illustrate how we must bear fruit) - 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, that it may bear more fruit.

- c. It could very well be that those that are not bearing fruit are not walking worthy of the Lord.
3. When we “walk worthy of the Lord,” we will increase “in the knowledge of God.”
 - a. There is no amount of knowledge of the will of God that is enough.
 - b. We must constantly grow “in the knowledge of God.”
 - c. This does not happen overnight; it is a continuous process.

When we pray, we pray that we “may walk worthy of the Lord.”

III. In our prayers, we pray that we may be “strengthened with all might” (1:11).

A. The strength that we gain comes only from “His glorious power.”

1. Again, it is not something that we can gain in and of ourselves.
 - a. It is only something that we can gain from God; it comes from “His glorious power.”
 - b. There is a progression that occurs in our prayers.
 - 1) We first must “be filled with the knowledge of His will” (1:9).
 - 2) We then can “walk worthy of the Lord” and be fully pleasing to Him (1:10).
 - 3) Then we will receive the strength of the Lord (1:11).
 - c. Of course, this does not mean that our prayers are to follow a certain order; it is a progression of our life, which results in the strength that we receive from God.
2. We need this strength “for all patience and longsuffering.”
 - a. Because of this strength, we are able to deal with these things with joy.
 - b. Js. 1:2-4 - My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. {4} But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
 - c. We have joy because this strength is from God.

B. Because this world is tough, we need the strength of God.

1. We must remember that Satan is out to get us.
 - a. Eph. 6:10-12 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. {11} Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. {12} For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
 - b. I Pet. 5:8 - Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

IV. In our prayers, we give thanks to the Father for what He has done for us (1:12-18).

A. It is “the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints” (1:12-13).

1. God “has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (1:13).
2. It is only because of God and through God that we can have salvation.

B. Paul tells us that we can “give thanks to the Father” because of His Son (1:14-18).

1. All of the spiritual blessings that we have come through Christ.
2. Because of all the things that Christ has done, He is the head of the church.
3. Today, we can be thankful because of Christ.

Conclusion:

A. The prayers of Christians have always been important to God.

1. We pray that we “may be filled with the knowledge of His will” (1:9).
2. We pray that we “may walk worthy of the Lord” (1:10).
3. We pray that we may be “strengthened with all might” (1:11).
4. In our prayers, we give “thanks to the Father” (1:12-18).

B. We can only have access to the Father through the blood of Christ.