



# “FULLY PLEASING THE LORD”

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# COLOSSIANS 1:9-11

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy."

# PURSUE KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, AND SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

- Paul's request suggests that all people can know and understand the truth.
  - Jesus affirmed this in John 8:32 by saying, "**You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**"
  - Such knowledge is not miraculously poured out upon us, but is received through diligent study of God's word (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Acts 17:11), accompanied by prayers for wisdom (James 1:5).

# USE THIS KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, AND UNDERSTANDING FOR A HIGH PURPOSE

- Paul requested the Colossians would be “**filled**,” or reach maturity, with knowledge, wisdom, and spiritual understanding.
- Spiritual maturation is necessary for knowing how to “**walk worthy**” (Eph. 4:1) and conduct a life worthy of the Lord (2 Pet. 1:5-8; Eph. 5:15-16).
  - No person will ever be worthy or deserving of what God has done for man (Luke 17:10), but we are still commanded to conduct our lives in such a way that “**pleases Him in all respects**” (Col. 1:10, NASB).
- Our goal in life is not to please ourselves or seek the approval of others (Luke 9:23; Rom. 8:8; Gal. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:4).
  - Our goal must always be setting about to do whatever pleases the Lord and is approved by Him (Heb. 11:6; Rom. 12:1-2; John 8:29; 1 John 3:22; 2 Cor. 5:9).

# SEEK TO PLEASE THE LORD IN ALL RESPECTS

- To fully please the Lord, one must be productive in his faith by being “**fruitful in every good work**” (Col. 1:10).
  - Man is not at liberty to define for himself what is or is not a “good work.” Such standards of goodness do not come from man but, rather, God (2 Thess. 1:11; Phil. 2:13).
    - For something to be a good work, the word of God must affirm it as such (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- While good works themselves cannot save man (Eph. 2:8-9), they are so vital that God re-created saved men and women specifically to do good works (Eph. 2:10; Tit. 2:11-14).

# SEEK TO PLEASE THE LORD IN ALL RESPECTS

- To fully please the Lord, one must also be progressing in his faith by “**increasing in the knowledge of God**” (Col. 1:10).
  - Notice that general knowledge (the knowledge of man) is not what Paul specified in this text; he specified “**the knowledge of God**.”
    - The knowledge of man and the knowledge of God are two very different types of knowledge (1 Cor. 1:18-20, 2:1-2, 5, 14). One is spiritually productive (Rom. 10:17, 1:16) while the other is spiritually destructive (Prov. 14:12; Rev. 22:18-19).
- Ultimately, one who has no desire to pursue the knowledge of God is unwise; the Bible says this person is a fool (Psalm 14:1; Prov. 1:7, 2:6).

# SEEK TO PLEASE THE LORD IN ALL RESPECTS

- To fully please the Lord, one must become “**strengthened with all might**” (Col. 1:11).
  - True strength does not come from within man, but comes through God’s “**glorious power**” (Col. 1:11; see also Isa. 40:29) and His Son (Phil. 4:13).
    - God’s power is infinite; He can do far more than we can fathom (Eph. 3:20).
    - This power is evident to all, even to those who reject Him (Rom. 1:20).
  - This strength available to man is intended to help us obtain “**patience and longsuffering with joy**” (Col. 1:11), even amid trials (James 1:2-4).
- The inner man finds strength through the power of God & His word (2 Cor. 4:1-2, 16).