

COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

REVIEW...

- **COLOSSIANS 1:1-2 – THE GREETING TO THE CHURCH...**
 - Paul was an Apostle by the will of Jesus Christ...
 - He was sent out to tell the world about the Good News – the Gospel message...
 - Paul also wanted to establish his authority to deal with the false teachings in the church...
 - Paul was writing to the saints in Colossae – and all who were faithful to Jesus...
- **COLOSSIANS 1:3-8 – THANKFUL FOR THE SAINTS...**
 - Paul was always praying for the church – not because of any problems – he was thankful!
 - Paul was thankful because of their Faith / Love / and Hope of salvation...
 - They had faith / love / and hope because they were in the Word of God!
 - Paul was also thankful for their pastor – Epaphras...
 - Because Epaphras taught the Word the church in Colossae...
 - Because Epaphras was a servant to the people – led them by example...
 - Because the church was healthy – as a result of a having a Godly pastor!

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST – PAUL WAS ALWAYS PRAYING FOR THE CHURCH... VS. 9**
 - 1st - It was not an occasional prayer - it was CONSTANT prayer...
 - So often when we pray we give up after a week - or a month - or a year...
 - But God does not call us just to pray - God calls us to be a people of prayer...
 - **I Thessalonians 5:17** - "Pray without ceasing..."
 - Like a child who asks - OVER and OVER - until we give them what they want...
 - We need to be persistent in seeking the Lord – do not give up!
 - I imagine we will be amazed at how much God wanted to do in our lives...
 - But it never happened simply because we gave up asking too quickly!
 - 2nd - Paul did not pray for himself – he prayed for others...
 - We tend to be very self centered in our prayers – as if it is all about us...
 - Not that we cannot pray for our needs – but we are called to be others centered...
 - God is always working all around us – in the lives of people right next to us...
 - But if I am always focused on my needs – I am going to miss what God is doing...
 - God may not be working in my life today – but God is doing a work every day!
 - We RALLY see God working when get our eyes off ourselves – and pray for others!
- **2ND – TO BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD’S WILL... VS. 9**
 - 1st - Paul had only one request for the church...
 - He prayed for them to be filled with understanding – AND wisdom...
 - Because it is not enough to understand – we have to have the wisdom to act on it...
 - You might know that a fire is hot – but wisdom says not to touch it!
 - In the same way you might know God’s will for your life – but wisdom says to follow it!

- o 2nd - What is the will of God for our lives – generally there are 4 things...
 - It is the will of God that we are sexually pure...
 - **I Thessalonians 4:3** – “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality.”
 - We will face many temptations in this life – but temptation is not sin...
 - Temptation becomes sin when we - dwell on – think about – then act on it...
 - **James 1:12-15** – “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”
 - We do not just wake up one day and decide to go and commit sexual immorality...
 - We allow our mind to dwell on a desire - when that desire turns to action - sin...
 - A life that is dominated by sexual sin - is a sign of a man who does not know God
 - It is the will of God that we give thanks...
 - **I Thessalonians 5:18** - “In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God...”
 - We tend to focus in life on the things we do not have – but think we need...
 - If it was a need God would provide - **Luke 12:31** - if we don’t have it - don’t need it!
 - We overlook the simple things - food / clothing / family / a home / our health...
 - But God calls us to be thankful for all things - for all God has done for us - every day!
 - Looking at what He has giving us - not what we think we still need!
 - It is the will of God that we do good...
 - **I Peter 2:15** – “For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.”
 - The world is full of a lot of ‘foolish ideas’ about how to live life / get to heaven...
 - We are called to be a light – example – to silence all those foolish ideas!
 - **Matthew 5:14** – “You are the light of the world...”
 - We are though our actions to show them the real answer – the Word of God...
 - It is the will of God that we live our life showing the world Jesus!
 - It is the will of God that we suffer...
 - **I Peter 3:17** – “It is the will of God, to suffer for doing good...”
 - If we did the things the world does – they would embrace us / love us...
 - If we sat down at the drinking table / if we joined in the gambling...
 - If we laughed at the dirty jokes / If we passed on the latest gossip...
 - The world would embrace us – because are joining in with them – justifying them...
 - But when we go to Bible studies - because you do not want to live in sin...
 - When we do not do the things the world does - convicting the world of their sin...
 - Then people will make fun of us - attack you with cutting words - because of Jesus...
 - Do not take it personally – and do not be angry with the people in the world...
 - It is not us they have a problem with – they do not like who we stand for – Jesus!

- o 3rd - How can we know the will of God for daily lives...
 - It is easy to say the will of God is to live pure / thankful / good / suffer...
 - But how about the will of God for daily decisions – where I work / what I say...
 - **Romans 12:2** – “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”
 - It is really easy to get caught up in this world – make our decision like everyone else
 - But if we conform to the world – we are not going to know the will of God...
 - Only when we are emptied - not depending on ourselves - full of the Holy Spirit...
 - When God changes our hearts - our desires – we are transformed!
 - We will know God’s will for our lives – because we have God’s Spirit within us!
 - **Proverbs 3:5-6** – “Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.”]
 - Knowing it is not important what decision we make – but why we make it...
 - Often we get caught up in the rights and lefts of life...
 - A place where we have to make a decision – and we do not know what to do...
 - We worry about decision – rather than who we are trusting in...
 - We want to know which way we should go – and it really does not matter...
 - What is really important is who we are trusting in!
 - Are we relying on Jesus – then go right or go left – He will take care of both!
- 3rd – **WHEN WE ARE IN THE WILL OF THE LORD... vs. 10-14**
 - o 1st - We will walk worthy of the Lord – pleasing Him... vs. 10-11
 - Pleasing God because we are fruitful for the Lord...
 - Being fruitful is not about what I do – it is about who I am connected to...
 - Only as we spend time with – cling to Jesus – are we truly alive – bear fruit...
 - We will find we are doing what God wants – and we will be blessed – good fruit!
 - Pleasing God because we will increase in our knowledge of God...
 - If you want to know more about the Lord – get into the Word of the Lord...
 - That is why it is so important to get into God’s Word / fellowship...
 - When we are firmly planted in God’s word / spend time with Jesus...
 - The way we grow in our knowledge of Jesus is through reading the Bible!
 - Pleasing God because we are powerful...
 - Not strong in our power – but because of the POWER of God in us...
 - The power of God gives us patience in suffering – so we can have Joy...
 - We pride ourselves in our strength - but what is our strength compared to God’s...
 - Strength does not come from money / power / influence / even who you know...
 - True strength comes when we realize we are not strong – in fact we are weak...
 - The problem is we are limited – limited time / talent / money / ability...
 - But God had limitless - He has all the time / talent / money we could ever need!
 - In realizing this – we don’t depend on our strength – we depend on the Lord’s!
 - When we look to the Lord – depend upon the Lord – we are unstoppable!
 - o 2nd - We will be thankful... vs. 12-14

- We are thankful because we are able us to inherit eternal life...
 - We are not able to / qualified – to inherit eternal life on our own...
 - **II Corinthians 5:21** – “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”
 - In Jesus – we are qualified – we have the right to receive eternal life...
- We are thankful because he has delivered us from the power of darkness...
 - Before Jesus were the sons of this world - the children of satan - **Matthew 12:30**
 - We went wherever the world - motivated by satan - told us to go...
 - In other words before we knew Jesus we had no direction - no purpose...
 - Every new idea - we blindly followed after - not knowing where we were going...
 - No thought of consequence/no plan - following satan without question...
 - Before Jesus we did not think about sin - we just did what we wanted...
 - We did not think about God – think about righteousness – we were bound to sin...
 - When we sinned - we did not care – sin did not bother us...
 - With every sin we sank deeper into ‘debt’ - a debt we had no way to repay...
 - Only living to please ourselves - destined to face the wrath of God...
 - BUT GOD - these two words are what stand between us going to heaven or hell...
 - No one else could save us - there was nothing we could do to save ourselves...
 - It was only God who could step in and change our fate - save us from our sin!
- We are thankful because God transferred us into the Kingdom of His Son...
 - We can only be citizens of one of two kingdoms...
 - We either belong to the Kingdom of God - or the kingdom of this world...
 - Once we are born again - saved - we are no longer foreigners...
 - We no longer belong to this world - we have changed our citizenship!
 - And when one day we stand at the entrance into heaven - Jesus will welcome us in!
- We are thankful because we are redeemed through Jesus blood – we are forgiven...
 - Jesus has redeemed us from sin / destruction...
 - At the cross - Jesus took on Him the crushing weight of the sins of all men...
 - It was there that God unleashed His entire wrath against the sin of men...
 - The price of forgiveness was enormous – it cost Jesus His life!
 - Jesus paid a debt He did not owe – cause we owed a debt that we couldn’t pay
 - **I Peter 1:18-19** - “For you know that God paid a ransom to save you... the ransom he paid was not mere gold or silver. He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God.”
 - Now when God looks down on us – He does not see our sinful mistakes/flaws...
 - He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus – He sees us as perfect/flawless!
 - **Psalms 103:12** - “He removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west.”