Colossians 1:9-14

Review...

- Colossians 1:1-2 The greeting to the church...
 - o Paul was an Apostle by the will of Jesus Christ...
 - o He was sent out to tell the world about the Good News the Gospel message...
 - o Paul also wanted to establish his authority to deal with the false teachings in the church...
 - o Paul was writing to the saints in Colossae and all who were faithful to Jesus...
- Colossians 1:3-8 Thankful for the saints...
 - o 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!
 - o 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
 - o 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!
 - o 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
 - o 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!

• 3^{RD} - 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 are 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 2^{nd} 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
 - o We went wherever the world motivated by satan told us to go...
 - o In other words before we knew Jesus we had no direction no purpose...
 - o Every new idea we blindly followed after not knowing where we were going...
 - o No thought of consequence/no plan following satan without question...
 - Before Jesus we did not think about sin we just did what we wanted...
 - o We did not think about God think about righteousness we were bound to sin...
 - o When we sinned we did not care sin did not bother us...
 - o With every sin we sank deeper into 'debt' a debt we had no way to repay...
 - o 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...
 - o No one else could save us there was nothing we could do to save ourselves...
 - o 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...
 - o At the cross Jesus took on Him the crushing weight of the sins of all men...
 - o It was there that God unleashed His entire wrath against the sin of men...
 - o 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
 - o **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."
 - o Now when God looks down on us He does not see our sinful mistakes/flaws...
 - o He instead sees the perfect life of His Son Jesus He sees us as perfect/flawless!
 - o **Psalm 103:12** "He removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west."