

**Colossians**  
**“A Worthy Walk”**  
**Statement of Purpose: 1:9-14**

**1:9-10**

*“Show them what they won when they won”*

**I. Intro.**

**II. Vs. 9 One thing needed**

**III. Vs. 10 Discovering the will of God**

**I. Intro.**

We now move to the reason for Paul’s writing this letter which is housed in his continual prayer for this church. Reading this section is extremely insightful as it is a prayer for maturity of the believer. But Paul doesn’t write them telling them they need to “*Put on their big boy pants*” neither does he say, “*Time to grow up and get busy!*” Instead *these 6 verses are not telling these believers to do anything instead they are completely devoted to explaining to them what Christ has done for them*. Based upon this observation I can see two very important truths as it relates to spiritual immaturity:

1. *The weakness of the church is to be found in far too many remaining baby*

*Christians*: Don’t get me wrong I like babies but they aren’t always pleasant to be around. In fact most parents look forward to the day when their little one can feed themselves, go to the bathroom on their own and get dressed. There ok with the baby stage for a while but not for 10 to 20 years. Someone once said of babies that they are “*A digestive apparatus with a loud noise at one end and no responsibility at the other!*” Babies are notoriously selfish and self-centered. Their whole world is centered on themselves and you meeting their needs. That is all

they think about, all they know. I think that description can fit prolonged immature Christians as well.

2. ***Maturity happens when we emphasize what Christ has done for us and not emphasize what we can do for Jesus:*** What immature believer's need isn't a list of things to do and work on. No, what they need is to realize what is already theirs in Christ. Paul spends these 4 chapters telling these Colossian believers **what they have won when they won!**

## II. Vs. 9 One thing needed

Vs. 9a Paul in his opening introduction spoke of the three fold Christian characteristics of faith, hope and love. These new Christians had experienced these truths in their lives but hadn't continued to grow in those same characteristics. What threatened their maturity was false teaching, a mixture of works, mysticism and pride as the false teachers were saying that they had special insight that only a few had. Paul had been told their condition by Epaphras and while chained between two guards in room a thousand miles away he wrote this letter. But notice that before he wrote this letter he committed to continual prayer on their behalf. Here is a man who had very little personal connection to this church, he didn't know them personally, had never been to Colossae yet he writes: "*For this reason we also, since the day we heard of it, do not cease to pray for you.*" The "IT" that Paul speaks of is their faith in Christ. Every time the Holy Spirit brought these believers to Paul as he was chained between to guards and 12 hour shifts he prayed. It is obvious by this that prayer for Paul was not bound to bending his knees and grasping his hands together. It was the kind of prayer that was just a thought in his head where he

placed them into the Lord's hands. And what follows in this section is the specifics of this prayer for their maturity and interestingly enough he asks for only one thing, though he will explain it many ways. In making the prayer about one thing Paul is saying that the primary problem with the Church was that they had forgotten who they were in Christ!

Vs. 9b Paul asks God that they be: "...filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." That is the content of his prayer; everything else in the passage flows out of that. The one thing he asks for is that the Colossians might come to understand God's will. It is clear that this is the important thing to Paul. He knows that if they begin to understand the will of God, everything good that he desires for them will follow. Thus, the chief aim of a believer's life ought to be to know God's will.

Many Christians think that the will of God is some sort of spiritual itinerary whereby God instructs us on where to go and what to do. But by the context Paul is not speaking about "direction" he is speaking about "position"! Paul's making a very profound truth: "Who we are in Christ determines where we go in life!" That means when you and I get lost, lose our direction, the way back is not trying to find our path, it's about the rediscovery our identity in Christ! There is a spiritual truth to that old hippie saying: "*I've got to go and find myself!*" But you will only find your true self in Christ! 2 Cor. 5:17 tells us that "...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." No wonder we feel a bit lost in our new relationship in Christ. God has made us into something different than what we once were. The more we understand who we now are, and what God has done to make us that way, the more our behavior will automatically change.

Having told the Colossian believers that they needed to know their position in Christ Paul now tells them in his prayer where to look for this. *There are two things that enable us to discover the will of God.*

- A. **The first is “wisdom”**: Paul is speaking of divine insights into human life: “*How we are to understand ourselves and how the world functions*” These are divine insights because apart from God the natural man knows nothing about them. As believers, we Christians need to discover what God thinks about us and life. All of us are on this spiritual quest of personal discovery but the discovery of who we truly are is only found in discovering who Jesus truly is.
- B. **The second is “spiritual understanding”**: This is the application of the wisdom of above. The first thing we need is to understand is who God is and how he sees us and we will find that in his word. Once we do that we will see a clearer picture of what needs to be done, what steps we need to take or not to take. These are not natural abilities they are given by the Holy Spirit.

### III. Vs. 10 Discovering the will of God

Vs. 10 Look at what Paul says in this prayer that will follow the Holy Spirit giving us insight into who God and is and who we are as we read in verse 10: “*You may have a walk worthy of the Lord...*” The outcome of those two discoveries is that our direction, our **spiritual itinerary** will be heading the right direction. What follows in this passage is **five things that indicate we are going the right direction: The first three are activities that we have a choice in:**

- *Worthy walk*
- *Fully pleasing Him*
- *Being fruitful in every good work*

*The last two are results that will grow out of those three:*

- *Increasing in the knowledge of God*
- *Strengthened with all might according to His glorious power*

This prayer of Paul makes two great requests:

1. It asks for the discernment of God's will
2. It asks for the power to perform the will: D.L. Moody often said, "*Every Bible should be bound in shoe-leather.*"