

TODAY, I GIVE THANKS THAT
IN CHRIST,

WEEK 3 – A PREEMINENT PRAYER FOR A KNOWLEDGEABLE WALK COLOSSIANS 1:9–14

TODAY'S VERSES:

Colossians 1:9-14

Philippians 1:9

Philemon 1:6

Romans 3:23

Romans 6:23

John 3:16

Psalm 119

WEEK 3 – A PREEMINENT PRAYER
FOR A KNOWLEDGEABLE WALK
COLOSSIANS 1:9-14

In Colossians Paul will deal a lot with the issue of syncretism. Syncretism is where the church “synchronizes” with the world around it, sometimes so much so that it ceases to look like Jesus. Syncretism was becoming an issue in Colossae because they were beginning to combine Christianity with what was known as Gnosticism. Paul starts off redirecting them back to Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and God the Father Himself. He then tells them **WHAT** he is praying for them and **WHY**. Paul will offer a prayer for knowledge and for their local church to walk with Jesus in a way that is both powerful and thankful.

Name some “good deeds” you or others do. What is the reason behind your “good deeds”? Who do you focus upon while doing them?

A PRAYER FOR KNOWLEDGE – Paul prays that they would grow in an understanding of the real Gospel, that each day they would grow in their relationship with God. Typically when we pray for ourselves or for others, we pray for physical health, well-being, social relationships, and/or spiritual growth, but part of our prayers should include “*the knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.*”

A PRAYER ABOUT WALKING – In the Hebrew mind, knowledge and conduct were bound together. Hopefully, we also want to KNOW what it means to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and live a life that pleases Him.

What does it mean to “walk with God”?

1. A WALK THAT IS WORTHY – v10 to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,

A Hebrew, like Paul, would have seen an absolute connection between knowledge and conduct; true spiritual knowledge = action! Paul prayed that the Colossians would walk in their knowledge of Jesus, that it would grow, and that would produce a conduct which was worthy of God.

2. A WALK THAT IS KNOWLEDGEABLE – and increasing in the knowledge of God...

Paul also sees the dynamic connection between action and knowledge. As knowledge leads to action, so action will lead to more knowledge, “bearing fruit in every good work,” they would naturally open themselves to “growing in the knowledge of God.”

3. A WALK THAT IS POWERFUL – v11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

The Greek words that Paul uses here means that we are CONTINUALLY “strengthened” with a steady supply.

4. A WALK THAT IS THANKFUL – v12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

A heart of gratitude starts with the understanding that God’s strength is at work in us and enables us to endure with patience and joy the difficulties of life.

Take a moment to think about and describe how each of these above points are displayed, or lacking, in your own life. How could others encourage you (or you encourage others) in living them out?

Why Are We So Thankful?

- The Father has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints. Kent Hughes writes, “One day we shall pass beyond the stars, and when they have burned themselves out, we will shine even brighter.”
- He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.

We have been transported to the kingdom of the Son!

- We have been purchased and our sins have been sent away.

When we come to the Father, we come through the blood of Jesus shed on the cross. We don’t qualify ourselves before God...the Father qualifies us in Christ.

What does it mean to you that you have been qualified in Christ? Why/how should that lead to a thankfulness?