

Paul's prayer for the church

Colossians 1:3-12



- Their love for the saints
- Their zeal and growth in Christ
- The source of their hope
- The word at work in their lives



"... that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord," col. 1:9-10

• Can I be worthy of God?

- Matthew 28: The guests who weren't worthy
- What is a "worthy" response? Luke 7:36-48
- The danger of a profane (unholy) influence, Heb.
 12:16-17

- "... filled with the knowledge of his will, with all spiritual wisdom and understanding," v. 9
- "Knowledge of His will" necessary to walk worthy
- The greater my understanding, the greater my appreciation
 - Appreciate who Jesus is, v. 15-20
 - Appreciate what Jesus has done, v. 21-23
 - 1 Cor. 6:19-20: "You have been bought with a price"

"... fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God," v. 10

- Worthiness doesn't serve halfway
 - Jesus emphasized this, Luke 14:26-33, Luke 9:62
 - David's offering, 2 Samuel 24:24
 - There are no unproductive children of the kingdom of Heaven! 2 Peter 1:8, Ephesians 4:14 16

"... May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience," v. 11

- I am worthy through God's strength, not my own
 - 2 Thes. 1:11-12 " ... fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith"
 - God began the work (Phil. 1:6) through the gospel call, gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6-8)
 - God will sustain me (1 Peter 1:5), if I continue on (Col. 1:23)



"... with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light," v. 12

- Is work in Christ a burden?
 - Philippians 3:4-10 How important is God's grace to us?
 - Does the pearl-seeker sell everything by compulsion? Matt. 13:45 (1 Thes. 1:3)
 - Phil. 2:16-18 We see the hope of salvation in the fruit of our labor

Am I walking worthy of God

- My priorities
- My concerns
- My associations
- My goals
- My will



"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Galatians 2:20