

Worthy; Colossians 1:9-12

I. Continue

- a. Last week we talked about continuing to live a Christian life: in prayer, sharing the Gospel, and live by faith
- b. Paul urges the church at Colossae to 'walk worthy'
 - i. Trail Life uses this text (Colossians 1:10) as their motto
 - ii. Romans 3:10 says there is no one righteous
 - iii. Revelation 5 tells us that the only one worthy to open the scroll was Jesus
- c. How do broken, sinful people walk worthy?

II. Knowledge of His Will

- a. Colossians 1:9–10a (ESV) ⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
- b. What is God's will, and can we know it?
 - i. Paul's prayer is that the Colossians be filled with the knowledge of His will
 - ii. And that the knowledge of His will enables us to 'walk in a manner worthy of the Lord'
 - iii. The answer to the question is yes, we can know His will
 - iv. It has been written down for us, preserved over centuries for us
 - v. The languages have been preserved for us
- c. We tend to become experts in the things that matter to us
 - i. Our profession, our hobbies
 - ii. I research to the nth degree buying anything, when deciding on travel routes, etc.
- d. Our Christianity should matter to us
 - i. The only place we can research His will is in the books and letters He provided for us
 - ii. Hebrews 13:20–21 (ESV) ²⁰ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, ²¹ equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.
- e. To walk worthy is to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- f. 2 Peter 3:17–18 (ESV) ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

III. Bearing Fruit

- a. Colossians 1:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- b. To be 'fully pleasing' to God we must bear fruit 'in every good work'

- i. John, who is baptizing in the Jordan river, tells those around him to bear fruit in keeping with repentance
 - ii. Luke 3:10–14 (ESV) ¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” ¹¹ And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” ¹² Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” ¹³ And he said to them, “Collect no more than you are authorized to do.” ¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”
 - iii. We are a people who were created for good works
 - iv. Ephesians 2:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
 - v. God wants us to be zealous for good works
 - vi. Titus 2:11–3:1 (ESV) ¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Declare these things; exhort and rebuke with all authority. Let no one disregard you. ¹ Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work,
 - vii. 2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV) ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
 - viii. We were created to be a blessing to others
 - ix. Hebrews 10:23–25 (ESV) ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
 - c. To walk worthy is to know God’s will, which is to bear fruit in every good work
- IV. Endurance and patience
- a. Colossians 1:11 (ESV) ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;
 - b. Endurance – the capacity to hold out or bear up in the face of difficulty, perseverance
 - i. In Jesus’ parable of the sower, He defines the good soil
 - ii. Luke 8:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.

- iii. God is telling us that no matter what is happening in our lives, no matter what tragedy or suffering we are in the middle of, we bear fruit with patience and joy
 - c. Patience is hard, especially “with joy”
 - i. To remain tranquil while awaiting an outcome, to bear up under provocation
 - ii. Society has made patience extremely hard to cultivate
 - 1. Credit cards, 2-day shipping, microwave ovens
 - 2. We have created anything we can to help us make things go quicker
 - 3. Even our tax returns can be done online and delivered right to our account
 - 4. We have all heard of (or witnessed) the person who went berserk because they had to wait ‘too long’
 - iii. People are watching us; how we handle our waiting, our suffering, our tragedies, etc.
 - iv. Christians who are calm and joyful in the midst of suffering draw others to themselves, and in turn draw them to Christ
 - v. Matthew 5:16 (ESV) ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.
 - d. To walk worthy is to endure suffering with patience and joy
- V. Walk Worthy
 - a. Colossians 1:12–14 (ESV) ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
 - b. We have an inheritance, eternal life with Jesus
 - c. We have been delivered from this wicked world
 - d. We have redemption
 - e. Walk worthy!