

Bible Study Lesson (Student)

**SERIES: “IMPROVE OUR LIVES EACH DAY”**

**LESSON #1: EVERY DAY WE HAVE A CHANCE TO INCREASE OUR KNOWLEDGE**

**COLOSSIANS 1:9-10**

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**INTRODUCTION:** Jesus taught that we should live in “day-tight” compartments, not trying to take on all of life’s problems but rather doing each day’s simple duty as it comes. **Matthew 6:34** says, “**Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**” Most of us could **IMPROVE** in this area. We need to learn that each day’s troubles are **MANAGEABLE** if we will just **FOCUS** on what needs to be done as each day passes.

But it is also helpful to think about something else: **each day God gives us opportunities to improve our lives.** Not only does each day have its difficulties, but each day has its **HOPE**. With the rising of the sun each morning, we are each given a fresh start, a clean slate to work with. If we look at “today” as we should, we will see many chances to make significant progress.

Many of our best opportunities are lost because of two things **PROCRASTINATION** and **POSTPONEMENT**. We assume there will be many more opportunities in the days and weeks ahead of us. But even if that’s true, we still need to take advantage of each day’s possibilities for **GROWTH** and not waste time. Time is valuable. We shouldn’t waste it. Notice what Jesus said in **John 9:4** “**We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.**”

**James 4:13-15 (NIV)** “**Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."**

So for the next few Wednesday’s, let’s be more mindful of what we can do each day. Here’s first lesson:

## **“EVERY DAY WE HAVE A CHANCE TO INCREASE OUR KNOWLEDGE”**

**Subject Text:** Colossians 1:9-10 (NIV) “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God...”

### **QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL GROWTH:**

#### **I. WHY IS KNOWLEDGE SO IMPORTANT TO THE BELIEVER?**

##### **1. FALSE TEACHING (Col. 2:8)**

- Paul knew of the **FALSE TEACHING** that was threatening the church, so he centered his praying on that problem (Vs.1, 9).

Colossians 1:3 (NIV) “We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you...”

Colossians 1:9 (NIV) “For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you...”

Colossians 2:8 (NIV) says “See to it that no one takes you captive through HOLLOW and DECEPTIVE PHILOSOPHY, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

- **SATAN IS SO DECEPTIVE** (John 8:44).

Scriptures:

Colossians 2:4 (NIV) “I tell you this so that no one may DECEIVE you by fine-sounding arguments.”

Matthew 24:24 (NIV) “For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to DECEIVE even the elect--if that were possible.”

II Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV) “For the time will come when men will not put up with sound DOCTRINE. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number

of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the TRUTH and turn aside to MYTHS.”

## 2. SPIRITUAL MATURITY IN THE CHURCH (V.2).

### 1. Two Classes of believers in the Church

- a. Saints
- b. Faithful brethren
- c. In Christ

### 2. Level of Maturity and Commitment

- a. Danger of Drifting away
- b. Danger of being Content in their Spiritual Growth

### 3. Areas where they were growing because of God's Word:

- a. Faith in Christ and Love for other brother's (V.4)

**I John 3:23) “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.”**

- b. Hope of Heaven (V.5)
- c. The Word of God / The Gospel (V.5)

- The Gospel is the Truth of God – John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”
- The Gospel is for Individuals – (V.6) Romans 10:13 “Whosoever call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”
- The Gospel is for the World – (V.6) Mark 16:15 “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”
- The Gospel Produces Fruits (V.6, Gal. 5:22-23)
- The Gospel comes by Hearing (V.6) Romans 10:17 “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”
- The Gospel is the Message of Grace (V.6) Titus 2:11-12 “For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.”

### **3. FILLED WITH KNOWLEDGE (Vs. 9-10)**

#### **1. Definition:**

The word **KNOWLEDGE** in the Bible denotes an **Understanding, Recognition, or an Acknowledgment**. To “**KNOW**” something is to perceive it or to be aware of it. Many times in Scripture, knowledge carries the idea of a **DEEPER APPRECIATION** of something or a **Relationship** with someone. The Bible is clear that the **Knowledge of God is the Most Valuable Knowledge a human being can possess.**

- a. We know from Scripture that knowledge is a **GIFT FROM GOD**. **Proverbs 2:6** tells us that the Lord gives wisdom that comes from His own Mouth—**The Word of God**—and that the WISDOM of God results in **KNOWLEDGE** and **UNDERSTANDING**.

#### **2. Paul prayed that the Believers be **Filled with the Knowledge of God's Will** (V.9)**

Every believer needs to have “the knowledge of His will.” The Greek word translated “**KNOWLEDGE**” in this verse carries the meaning of “**FULL KNOWLEDGE**.” Like Paul we should never take the **MINDSET** that we have **ARRIVED** and we don’t need to learn anymore (**Phil. 3:12-16**). There is always more to learn about **God** and **His will** for our lives. The will of God is an important part of a successful Christian life.

- God wants us to **KNOW HIS WILL**. **Acts 22:14 (NIV)** “*Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.'*”
- He wants us to **UNDERSTAND IT**. **Ephesians 5:17 (NIV)** “*Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.*”

#### **3. Paul used the word “**FILLED**”.**

The word carries the idea of being **FULLY EQUIPPED**. It was used to describe a ship that was ready for a voyage. The believer has in Christ all that he needs for the voyage of life.

The word filled also means to be “**CONTROLLED BY**.” When we are filled with anger, we are controlled by anger. To be “**filled with the Spirit**” (**Eph. 5:18**) means to be “**controlled by the Spirit**.” Paul’s prayer was that these Colossian believers might be controlled by the **full knowledge of God's will**.

4. What is God's will for my life? Here are three general areas:

A. God's will is for you to be **SAVED**.

**I Tim. 2:3-4** “This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”

**II Pet.3:9** “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”

B. God's will is that you **LIVE** in a way that **PLEASES HIM**.

**I Thess. 4:1-4NIV** “Finally, brothers, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living. Now we ask you and urge you in the Lord Jesus to do this more and more. For you know what instructions we gave you by the authority of the Lord Jesus. {3} It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality; {4} that each of you should learn to control his own body in a way that is holy and honorable”

C. God's will is for you to be **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit.

**Eph. 5:17-18 (KJV)** “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”

## **II. WHAT ARE SOME PRACTICAL WAYS WE CAN MAKE THIS KIND OF GROWTH A DAILY HAPPENING (Vs. 9-10).**

Paul moves into a very critical part of the believer's life and that is “**PRACTICAL OBEDIENCE**”.

In the Christian life, **KNOWLEDGE** and **OBEDIENCE** go together. There is no separation between learning and living.

Knowing something and having the ability to do something are very important, but they involve only head knowledge. The critical part is putting what we know **INTO PRACTICE**. We are to live out the will of God; we are to practice and do the will of God. Knowing the will of God is of no value until we have committed our lives to do it. Notice what James says **James 1:22-25 (GW)** “Do what God's word says. Don't merely listen to it, or you will fool yourselves. If someone listens to God's word but doesn't do what it says, he is like a person who looks at his face in a

mirror, studies his features, goes away, and immediately forgets what he looks like. However, the person who continues to study God's perfect teachings that make people free and who remains committed to them will be blessed. People like that don't merely listen and forget; they actually do what God's teachings say.”

Notice in our text, that Paul gives three W's that summarize the practicality of the Christian life **WALK, WORTHY** and **WORK**.

1. **WALK WORTHY:**

- **Walk** - means that we set our lives, our behavior and conduct after Christ.
- **Worthy** – means to weigh as much as something else.
- **Work** – means our Labor

In other words our walk is to weigh as much as the walk of Christ. Our conduct is to conform to the will of God as much as the conduct of Christ. We are to live a life just as worthy as the life of Christ. The will of God is to control our behavior as much as it did the behavior of Christ.

The order is important: first, **Wisdom**; then **Walk**; then **Work**. I cannot work for God unless I am walking with Him; but I cannot walk with Him if I am ignorant of His **Will**. The believer who spends time daily in the Word and Prayer will know God's will and be able to walk with Him and work for Him. **Acts 6:4 (KJV)** “**But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**” Our purpose in life is not to please ourselves, but to please the Lord. We should **Walk Worthy** of our calling (Eph. 4:1) and worthy of the Gospel (Phil. 1:27), which means we will walk worthy of God (I Thess. 2:12). In short, we should walk to please God (I Thess. 4:1). Practical obedience means pleasing God, serving Him, and getting to know Him better. Paul has prayed that we might have spiritual intelligence, and that this intelligence might result in practical obedience.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. The first step toward fullness of life is Spiritual Intelligence and growing in the will of God by knowing the Word of God.