

Lesson 2

**Rooted in Christ;
He is our Redeemer...**
so live in him,
increasing in the knowledge
of his will

GETTING STARTED

1. Our Study: Colossians 1:3-14

Overview

In our first lesson we looked at the entire letter and considered Paul's reason for writing it. In the rest of the lessons we will study one section of the letter at a time, noting the various aspects of the life in Christ. IN each section it seems that Paul emphasizes one special aspect concerning Christ and our relationship with him. These will serve as our themes for each lesson.

In the section we are to study for this lesson, Paul emphasizes that Christ is our Redeemer; therefore, we should live in him as redeemed persons, increasing in the knowledge of his will.

Before you begin your study of this one section of Colossians, reread the entire letter. By reading and rereading this short letter, it will soon become as familiar as a friend. As you read it this time, see if you can become better acquainted with the Colossians. In what way were they and their problems like those which Christians face today?

Pray that "the eyes of your heart may be enlightened" as you study this lesson.

Concerns About the Life in Christ

Do you sometimes ask...

- How much does a person need to know to be a Christian? ... to remain a Christian?

- How do you discern God's will?

- Why discern God's will?

As you study this section of Colossians, see if Paul has an answer for any of these questions.

DIGGING IN... for the facts

2. Paul Give Thanks – Colossians 1:3-8

It was the custom in ancient Greek letters to begin with prayer or an expression of thanksgiving for the welfare of the persons addressed. Not how Paul identifies God with Jesus Christ. List all of the things for which Paul expresses thankfulness:

A. Concerning the Colossians? (1:3-5) Note THREE things.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

B. Concerning the Gospel? Paul reminds his readers that it was the Gospel that had evoked these results in their lives. How does Paul describe the Gospel?

1. as to name (1:5) _____
2. as to extent of influence (1:6) _____
3. as to results (1:6) _____
4. as to central message (1:6) _____

C. Concerning the messenger?

1. Who... and how described? (1:7) _____

2. Did you note how the Colossians responded to his preaching? (1:6) _____

3. Paul Prays – Colossians 1:9-14

It warmed Paul’s heart to learn of the qualities of the Colossian Christians. He realized that the Gospel was bearing fruit in their lives, but Paul also realized the dangers they were facing. Not Paul’s major petitions, the reasons for these petitions and for his thankfulness to God. Also note the number of times Paul uses the word *all*. Underline them!

Prayer Petitions

- A. (1:9) _____

- B. (1:11) _____

Hoped-for Results

- A. (1:10) FOUR RESULTS! _____

- B. (1:11) _____

C. Reasons for being thankful to the Father (1:12-14) FOUR THINGS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

DIGGING DEEPER... for understanding

4. What Does Paul Mean?

Thus far we have been observing the statements which Paul has written but have not thought too much about their meaning. In order to gain a deeper understanding of Scriptural passages, consider some of the following study suggestions and questions. Remember that the Bible quotations are taken from the New International Version 2011.

- A. Seek to know the meaning of words and phrases. What is the meaning of such phrases as: *hope stored up for you in heaven*; *the true message of the gospel*; *his holy people in the kingdom of light*? Note 1 Peter 1:3,4; 1 John 4:6; John 16:13-15; Acts 26:18,19 _____

Consider the meaning of such words as: qualified, rescued, brought into, redemption. Note Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18,19 _____

- B. Be on the alert for details. What is the significance of such words as *all*, *always*, *fill*, *in every way*, *dear*, *loves*, *faithful*? _____

- C. Look for the author's purpose. Why does Paul pray God to fill you [the Colossians] with the knowledge of his will? What does he mean by *the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives*? Note Ephesians 1:17-19; 3:17-21; Job 28:28; 2 Corinthians 4:6 _____

- D. Build mental pictures of what you are reading. What pictures come to your mind when you think about living so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work? Does Colossians 1:11-14 or Galatians 5:22,23 give an insight?

Choose one or more of the suggestions for special study. Note how the words or phrases are used in the passage. Compare translations. Look up words in the dictionary or in a Bible dictionary. Study cross-references. List on new insight which you have received from your study. _____

GROWING... in Christ

5. What is Paul Saying to Us?

Paul was delighted when he heard about the faith, love, and hope of the Colossian Christians, but he was also concerned. He realized that this energy and spiritual vitality, if not properly guided, could be misused. This faith of theirs needed to be rooted in sound teaching. For this reason he prayed that would be filled with the knowledge of God's will and would grow in wisdom and understanding concerning the life in Christ. Do Christians today need this prayer? _____

- A. What is the relation between discerning and following God's will and increasing in one's knowledge of God? Think of a specific time when your knowledge and understanding of God was deepened because you sought and followed God's guidance. Is it possible to quote Bible verses about God and not really know him?

- B. Or maybe you are saying, "I feel discouraged. I surely haven't much knowledge about God's will for me... I don't know if my life is very pleasing to him... I feel that I don't measure up..."

Possibly you have a misguided understanding of what God's will is for you. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements... and why?

1. I think knowledge of God's will means to learn how to obey God's commandments the best I can. _____

2. I think God's will for me is to learn to know him as a God of love and mercy and to experience his forgiveness and peace. _____

3. I'm a little afraid of God's will. I sort of think of him as a judge always appraising my actions. I'm afraid he'll lead me into experiences I don't want. _____

4. When I think of God's will, I think of Jesus with his hand outstretched saying, "Come to me, learn of me. ____

5. Or what is your concept? I think... _____

C. When might you welcome Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:11,12? Memorize these verses!

6. Personal Response

Bible Study has little value unless we respond in terms of actions. Decide what your response will be to what you learned in this lesson. "One thing I will do is... _____
