

“MAXIMUM KNOWLEDGE”

Colossians 1:9-14

Last week: Paul has told how he prays (always) and why he prays (their F / H / L); now he tells what exactly he prays for.

9 The need for maximum knowledge, wisdom, and understanding

*Note how Paul does not pray.
How is this instructional for us?

*This a typical prayer of intercession by Paul, see his focus: Eph. 1:15-18, 3:14-19, Phil 1:9-11.

*We need to be filled with a *knowledge of God's will*. . . which suggests what? Col. 1:1, 4:14, Eph. 5:17, 6:6, Rom. 2:18

*We need to be filled with *spiritual wisdom* and understanding. *Wisdom* (often practical know how--4:5 is highlighted (1:28, 2:3, 23, 3:16, 4:5). *Understanding* = clear analyzing. All three again in 2:2,3.

10-14 The purpose for all this knowledge is a worthy walk.

*"So that" = purpose clause. Our thinking needs changing if our *walk* (lifestyle) is going to change (Phil. 1:12, Rom. 12:1,2, Prov. 23:7). Contrast walk of 1:10 to 3:6-8.

*A *worthy walk* is characterized here by four activities:

bearing fruit (vs. 6 too), Gal. 5:22,23

growing in knowledge of God (9 too), Mk. 4:24

being strengthened. . . *to attain steadfastness and patience*, Js. 1:3

giving thanks joyfully, I Thess 5:18, Phil. 4:6,7

**Giving thanks* (12-14) is for our new position / redemption / forgiveness. Redemption is present (Eph. 1:7, Rom. 3:24) and future (Rom. 8:23)