

“Finding Our Joy in God’s Joy”

Colossians 1:9-12

I. Reason for Paul's Prayer

A. What He had Heard

B. What He Knew

2 Thessalonians 2:13

But we should always give thanks to God for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God has chosen you from the beginning for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth.

Acts 14:21,22

After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying, “Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”

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II. Paul's Prayer for the Colossians

A. His Only Petition

Matthew 7:28,29

When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

John 3:11

Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know and testify of what we have seen, and you do not accept our testimony.

Ephesians 4:18

being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart

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B. Why This was important

III. The Goal in View in Paul's Prayer

A. Wants them to Please God

B. The Essence of the Christian Life

Ephesians 5:7-10

Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

2 Corinthians 5:9

Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us *instruction* as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

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C. What it means to please the Lord

1 Corinthians 7:32-34

One who is unmarried is concerned about the things of the Lord, how he may please the Lord; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how he may please his wife, and his interests are divided. The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

2 Timothy 2:4

No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

*“to please God is to be a real ingredient in the
divine happiness.” - C.S. Lewis*

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C. What it means to please the Lord

D. Things that Please the Lord

E. The Goal of the Christian Life

"But I've got a lot of running to do first. Jennie, you've got to understand. I believe that God made me for a purpose, for China. He also made me fast, and when I run, I feel his pleasure. To give it up would be to hold him in contempt. You were right; it's not just fun. To win is to honor him."

2 Corinthians 5:9

“Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent to be pleasing to Him.”

