At the end of Acts, Paul is found to be in “house arrest” in Rome. During that time, Epaphras spoke to Paul about his (Epaphras’s) congregation in Colossae (**Col. 1:7-8**). As we mentioned last week in our bulletin, the congregation had grasped hold of the great spiritual gifts that come from God: “Faith, Hope and Love (faith in Christ Jesus, a love … for all the saints, and a hope laid up … in heaven – **Col. 1:4-5**).” Paul, through Epaphras and through the Spirit, knows these things are true, and Paul knows they, as a church or congregation of Christ are going to have to face certain things.

With that knowledge, Paul prays for them to know certain things (**Col. 1:9-14**) “9And 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 wil**l in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10so 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; 11being **strengthened** with all power, according to His glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 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**, 14in Whom we have **redemption, the forgiveness of sins**.”

As a congregation of God’s people, there are certain things the Colossians were called to know, and likewise those same items will have application to God’s people today. First, to be a child of God, Christians must have “the **knowledge of His wil**l.” Certainly, to be a Christian, it makes sense to know what Christ wants. Paul even emphasizes this to the brethren; have knowledge in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” SPIRITUAL wisdom and understanding; not the wisdom that comes from the men, but the wisdom that comes directly from God. Paul in earlier letters, wrote to the Corinthian church and explained to them “And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. 2For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 3And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, 4and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. (**1 Cor. 2:1-5**).” Paul could have brought forth intellectual arguments to attempt to sway people to Christ, but instead he used the Word of God, the Power of God, to bring God’s TRUTH out. That truth does not come from the wisdom of men (**1 Cor. 1:3** Paul preached “Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles”). Yet, this is the KNOWLEDGE we need! We need to understand the message of Christ to 10… **walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,** to be **fully pleasing** to Him.

Paul then asserts the way to be pleasing to God: (**bear) fruit** in every good work , (**increase)** in the knowledge of God; 11 (be) **strengthened** with all power; according to His glorious might … (**Col. 1:10-11**). Christians must, to be pleasing to God, **Bear Fruit** (productive in the kingdom of Christ); Christians must **Increase in their Knowledge of God** (it is not enough to just know the basic steps of salvation and then not continue onward – there is the implication presented to Christians that active striving must take place in seeking God); and Christians must be **Strengthened with all Power** (the Gospel, which is the Power of God to salvation, must be explored, understood, and applied to Christian lives to give Believers strength). The Fruit, Knowledge, and Strength MUST be from God though. The Colossian church will face, or perhaps currently faced individuals who offered a form of fruit, a form of knowledge, and a form of strength – but those things were not according to God.

Christians will encounter the same challenge today. There are many things offered to the Believer, that have an appearance or “form of Godliness.” These things though, are not what God wants His children to partake of. God offers the Fruit, Knowledge, and Strength that comes through His Son and provides endurance and patience with joy.

Paul calls for Christians to 12(**give) thanks** to the Father, Who has **qualified (made sufficient, rendered fit, equipped adequately)** you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Additionally, God 13**has delivered** us from the domain of darkness and **transferred** us to **the kingdom of His beloved Son**, 14in Whom we have **redemption, the forgiveness of sins**.”