

**Colossians 1:9** - the verbs and pronouns become singular here. They have been plural in verse 1:3-8.

Paul continues in prayer, but moves from thanksgiving into intercession.

“For this reason” means intercession begins because of what Paul has just said in 1:3-8 which included thanksgiving for:

- 1) Salvation
- 2) Growth
- 3) Love, or selfless desire to share and give to others – Fruit

These are “this reason” he intercedes for them -> Paul is concerned about the future of the church. There is bad teaching.

Note two words used for prayer: 1) Prayer – which refers to basic prayer, a general term; 2) “Asking” – is specific type of prayer.

It is the word **aitoumenoi**. It is a request that God intervene in their lives

Paul is “asking” for:

- 1) Fill you with knowledge – **epignosis**. Gnosis is knowledge, but in Greek philosophy **epi** (a preposition that alters gnosis by adding the prefix “on, over, before, after, above” meaning “above knowledge” or “over knowledge”) it was used to refer to enlightenment that helped a person perceive and understand the information that was beyond the normal physical world and everyday life. When the Gnostics used it they referred to insight into the world of spiritual beings.
- 2) Knowledge of his will – this **epignosis** that Paul is concerned about is “God’s will” not some strange spiritual phenomena, but God’s will for you right now today. Romans 3:30 is an example of **epignosis** of sin being gained through the Law of Moses. **Epignosis** refers to you gaining experiential knowledge beyond mere academic knowledge or information.
- 3) Spirit gives and it is described with two inseparable words:
  - a. Wisdom – this is acquired knowledge
  - b. Understanding – this is the application of the knowledge

Paul asks God “to fill you” and the verb here is passive and the concept is you must learn this but it is not humanly attainable so God has to reveal it.

**1:10-11** – The goal of this knowledge and revelation of the wisdom of God revealed by the Holy Spirit is:

“that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way!”

And, to please the Lord we must (“well done” Matthew 25:23):

- 1) Bear fruit – John 15 (evangelism, personal growth, spiritual gift development, and Daniel 12:3, etc. )
- 2) Do good works -
- 3) Grow in the knowledge of God – God’s will above is directly related to your growth in the Christian experience. So, growth and fruit are not just works and good deeds and others, but your own relationship and understanding.
- 4) Be empowered by God – tap into God’s strength, not human works. God desires this transformation. Tin man story.
- 5) Endure – **hypomone**, to endure beyond what is normal, everyone else has given up. Continuance. Power to persevere.
- 6) Patience – **makrothyme**, is towards others. It is your emotional state. Remain calm in the presence of misfortune, irritation, aggravation
- 7) Joyful Thanks -

**1:12** – Qualified you:

- 1) Inheritance; 2) With Holy people; 3) In Kingdom of light

**1:13** – Rescued us from kingdom of darkness

The Son is mentioned

**1:14** – It is in this Son that we have:

- 1) redemption which means we have been purchased
- 2) forgiveness which means our fellowship is restored

We have been placed in a power dynamo and spiritual energy generator

**1:15-20** – This sends Paul off on one of the greatest NT Christological passages

**1:21-23** – Paul compares what we now have to what we did have.

And Paul warns the Colossians the danger of losing this spiritual dynamo. He is not warning of losing their salvation.

**1:24** – Paul begins to discuss his ministry.