



Paul's own relationship with Christ is very evident as he does not attack church for accepting false doctrines intent on destroying their very hope (the reason Paul wrote this letter). Instead he reemphasizes the truth. The only way we can deal with false doctrines is by knowing the truth. Jesus said I am the ...truth (John 14:6). Knowing Christ is our only hope of combating false doctrines in our lives as well as others. Throughout the letter to the church at Colossae Paul focuses on the centrality/supremacy of Christ.

### II. Prayer for Mature Understanding– Colossians 1:9-14 (GWT)

<sup>9</sup>For this reason we have not stopped praying for you since the day we heard about you. We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through every kind of spiritual wisdom and insight. <sup>10</sup>We ask this so that you will live the kind of lives that prove you belong to the Lord. Then you will want to please him in every way as you grow in producing every kind of good work by this knowledge about God. <sup>11</sup>We ask him to strengthen you by his glorious might with all the power you need to patiently endure everything with joy. <sup>12</sup>You will also thank the Father, who has made you able to share the light, which is what God's people inherit. <sup>13</sup>God has rescued us from the power of darkness and has brought us into the kingdom of his Son, whom he loves. <sup>14</sup>His Son paid the price to free us, which means that our sins are forgiven.

What an encouraging prayer! I cannot tell you how many times I have heard a Christian say to me..."I just don't know what God's will is". I can tell you for certain, that those who truly know Christ know His will. One of the wonderful things about our living relationship with Christ is that he does not keep us in the dark. He, after all is the Light of the world (John 8:12). So, as beneficiaries of the Light, as people who have been transformed from darkness to light, from death to life; it is God's will that we share this knowledge with the world around us.

Paul sums up this passage by reminding them/us that Jesus paid for our freedom – our sins are forgiven. His message, there is nothing more we need to do there is no "higher knowledge" (gnosis) whereby we gain or earn our salvation. Christ has completed the work, period.

### III. Encouragement to Know Christ – Colossians 2:1-5 (GWT)

<sup>1</sup>I want you to know how hard I work for you, for the people of Laodicea, and for people I have never met. <sup>2</sup>Because they are united in love, I work so that they may be encouraged by all the riches that come from a complete understanding of Christ. He is the mystery of God. <sup>3</sup>God has hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge in Christ. <sup>4</sup>I say this so that no one will mislead you with arguments that merely sound good. <sup>5</sup>Although I'm absent from you physically, I'm with you in spirit. I'm happy to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Paul continually engaged in spiritual warfare through prayer for those who had received Christ as their savior. He knew that living for Christ and coming into a personal relationship with Him was most difficult. He knew that the enemy would oppose all truth and sow seeds of deception in the lives of new converts. Therefore he labored in prayer over them.

The only knowledge that matters in life is the knowledge of Jesus Christ – personal savior and Lord. There is no other secret as the Gnostics were proposing, Christ is the secret (mystery).

We live in a day that is no different than the days of the Colossians; there are all kinds of arguments against the gospel that may sound good, and may sound harmless. However, they are born in the pits of hell and have been designed to reduce the work of salvation. Furthermore, they are intent on causing us to get our eyes off Jesus. The only way we can know Him, is to first believe on the One who sent Him (the Father) and then keep our eyes on Him (Jesus). He is the author and finisher of our faith, He is the one that will one day (soon I believe) reward us with our salvation.

Do you know Him?