

Colossians
“A Worthy Walk”
Statement of Purpose: 1:9-14

1:11-14
“A Worthy Walk”

I. Intro.

II. Vs. 10-12 Five things that indicate that we are growing up

III. Vs. 13-14 Three things we can always be thankful for

I. Intro.

As Paul sat down and dictated this letter I’m convinced that he wasn’t thinking of the larger question of why people do awful things. But right here in verse 13 Paul speaks on the work of Jesus in *conveying us from the power of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of His love*. Admittedly most of the time we humans aren’t confronted with the face of evil like we have been over the last few weeks; and because of this we come up with some pretty strange views about evil. We tend to analyze what is wrong by thinking in selective categories when delving into the question of “*What is wrong with the world*”.

- We tend to answer this in the political realm
- Or the Sociological realm
- Sometimes we place it in the environmental realm

The atheist and evolutionary view is that people are “Good” and it is religion that has made a few of them make life horrible for the rest of us. The problem with that few is that it ignores the facts of history as most evil has been committed by atheists. Every now and then you will find an honest atheist who will say as Jung said, “*We need more*

understanding of human nature because the only real danger that exists is man himself...His psyche should be studied because we are the origin of all coming evil.”

Though I don't agree with Carl Jung's view that we humans are the “origin of all coming evil” I would say that if you want to know evil look into the mirror and if you want to know LOVE look in the Bible at Jesus!

II. Vs. 10-12 Five things that indicate that we are growing up

Vs. 10-12 Look at what Paul says in this prayer that will follow the Holy Spirit giving us insight into who God and is and who we are as we read in verse 10: “*You may have a walk worthy of the Lord...*” The outcome of those two discoveries is that our direction, our *spiritual itinerary* will be heading the right direction. What follows in this passage is *five things that indicate we are going the right direction: The first three are activities that we have a choice in:*

- *Worthy walk*
- *Fully pleasing Him*
- *Being fruitful in every good work*

The last two are results that will grow out of those three:

- *Increasing in the knowledge of God*
- *Strengthened with all might according to His glorious power*

1. Vs. 10a *Worthy walk: When we understand what God has made us to be, though we don't deserve it, we will be changed in our direction in life:* We are God's children, adored by him! He has taken our guilt and sin and dealt with it. He is our loving Father who guides and guards us. And because we are so loved, what others think of us isn't important when compared to what our Father thinks of us.

A walk worthy of the Lord will reflect those truths. Our impact upon others is in direct correlation of God's continual impact upon us. So if our impact upon others is negative or non-existent, what needs to happen is that we need to go back and look with fresh eyes upon how God sees us, that's a continual choice we need to make.

2. Vs. 10b **Fully pleasing Him:** *The chief aim of every believer is to please our Father, to live in a way that God delights in.* But what is the **WAY** that is pleasing to our Heavenly Father? We don't have to guess or make a list as Hebrews 11:6 tells us **the quality of life that is pleasing to God** as we read, "without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Our Lord always commends people for trusting Him and acting on what he says. When we make a choice not to conform to the customs of the world and swim against the stream of life we are trusting him and doing that which pleases God.
3. Vs. 10c **Being fruitful in every good work:** In Galatians 4:22 we are told what the "**FRUIT**" is as Paul says it is **LOVE** described in 8 characteristics of: **joy, and peace, in our relationships. Patience in our actions with regard to others; kindness, goodness, and faithfulness in times of others stresses. Gentleness and self-control as we bring God's word of peace into a troubled, hostile world.**
That's a choice we can make in being fruitful in every good work.

As we make these three choices two results will follow.

4. Vs. 10d **Increasing in the knowledge of God:** Paul's prayer was that the Colossians would come to know God's will and now he says that as they put these things into practice they will know God better than ever before. Knowing God is the secret of excitement and vitality in a life. Thus if you are bored, as a Christian, it is because you don't adequately know your God. When we are in God's presence it is impossible to think of anything else. He is the most exciting, captivating Being, filled with fresh ideas, concepts and possibilities there will ever be. That is why being around people who know God are exciting to be with.
5. Vs. 11 **Strengthened with all might according to His glorious power:** Another result of those three choices is we will have true spiritual power which is characterized by three things:
- a. **Patient:** The word means endurance when circumstances are difficult. It is said if we don't first have "*patience*" it is doubt full we will ever have anything else! Patience isn't complacency, it's endurance in action! It's the runner on the race track, refusing to stop because he wants to win the race. It is always too soon to quit! Spurgeon once said, "*By perseverance the snail reached the ark.*"
 - b. **Longsuffering:** Here the word is different than patience as the word means "*self-restraint*" and deals with people and not circumstances. Because God has dealt with us in longsuffering we find that it is a garment of grace that we ought to wear as we deal with others.
 - c. **Joy:** The last strength of God's power is a joy filled heart when both circumstances and people are difficult. It isn't enough to just endure if we

aren't also enjoying! If our *happiness* is dependent upon *happenings* we will never find lasting joy. Joy isn't in the happenings, it is in the Holy Spirit!

There are far too many Christians that miss spell G-l-o-r-y spelling is G-R-O-W-L!

III. Vs. 13-14 Three things we can always be thankful for

Vs. 12-14 The closing paragraph states *three things that we can always be grateful for.*

We can always come back to these three things for they are continually true of every believer. The more we think about them, the more an attitude of gratitude will control our life.

- a. Vs. 12 *Privileges we don't deserve:* We have been qualified by God “*to share in the inheritance of the saints*” which is in the resources available to all Christians.

These are:

- The Father's love
- Jesus' continual presence
- The Holy Spirit's resources
- A family to support us
- The certainty of glory

If we remember these we can rejoice in the midst of whatever comes. These are privileges we don't deserve for which we have been qualified by God.

- b. Vs. 13 *Perils from which we have been delivered:* “*He has delivered us from the power of darkness.*” Think of the things that might have happened to us if we had never become believers. Where would we be if Jesus hadn't intervened in our lives? The Lord Jesus has rescued us from the increasing uncertainties of life.

- c. Vs. 13b-14 **Pressures from which we have been freed**: Finally Jesus has “*brought us into the kingdom of the Son that he loves.*” We have been freed from the feeling of being unwanted. The feeling that nobody cares, nobody wants us, nobody loves us. That is forever rendered untrue by the work of Jesus. He has brought us into his kingdom and, with him, we share the love of the Father.