

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 26, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

Paul's Prayer in Colossians 1:9-12, Part 5

Paul prayed for the saints to be filled with the knowledge of God's will so that they would be empowered to know God in a deep way, walk worthy of Him, and be fruitful in ministry.

"...[we] do not cease to pray for you...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might... for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father..."

Colossians 1:9-12

Increasing in the knowledge of God (1:10): There is no aspect of God's grace that more powerfully transforms our emotions or satisfies our heart than when the Spirit reveals the knowledge of God to us. The most transforming power is the knowledge of God. Christianity is pursuing a Person. It is more than escaping from hell, obeying a code of conduct, and fulfilling a ministry assignment.

1. Immediately after Paul's prayer, he proclaimed the glory of the knowledge of God in Christ (Colossians 1:15-20).
 - a. "He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth... All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through... His cross."
Colossians 1:15-20
2. Paul gladly gave up everything as he saw the magnificence, the excellence, of Jesus! If we can see what Paul saw about Jesus, then we can live like he lived.
 - a. "I count all things loss for the excellence [magnificence] of the knowledge of Christ Jesus..."
Philippians 3:8
3. The best-kept secret in the Church is Jesus' magnificence. We are liberated from the inferior pleasures of sin by experiencing the superior pleasures of the beauty of Jesus.
4. Without having a sense of awe in our relationship with God, we will live spiritually bored and be more vulnerable to Satan's tactics. A spiritually bored believer is weak. A believer fascinated with the Lord is strong.

Forerunners for Christ Los Angeles

January 26, 2024 – Praying the Apostolic Prayers – Erlinda Cruz

We must be totally fascinated with God as we see Jesus representing our Heavenly Father for us to emulate!

”Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.”

1 John 3:1-3 NKJV