

INTRODUCTION

- I. THE APOSTLE PAUL SPENDS TIME IN HIS INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT WITH AN EXPRESSION OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SAINTS AT COLOSSE. Col. 1:1-8
 - A. The apostle introduces himself to the Colossian saints. Vs. 1
 - B. Paul recognizes two qualities in the believers at Colosse. Vs. 2
 1. Paul uses the articular form to note the saints of God in many of his epistles. 1st Co. 16:15; 2 Co. 1:1; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:10
 2. The use of the conjunction “and” (kai) notes
 - a) Saints were also “faithful” -- pistois -- those who could be entrusted, counted upon. Cf. 2 Tim. 2:2 (to teach others)
 - b) Saints who were counted faithful in Christ. Eph. 1:1
 - C. The apostle expresses thanksgiving for the saints. Col. 1:3 cf. 1st Thess. 1:2
 1. The thanksgiving was upon the basis the faith (initial salvation) of the Colossian believers. Cf. Gal. 3:26
 2. The thanksgiving was upon the basis of the love they were exhibiting towards all the saints. Col. 1:4 cf. Eph. 1:15
 - a) “Love” is “agape” love which is a self-less love produced by the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. Col. 1:8 (the articular use of Spirit notes the Holy Spirit); Gal. 5:22 cf. 1st John 3:16
 - b) This articular form of agape is used elsewhere in Scripture to emphasize the importance of agape love among the saints. Col. 3:14; 2 Thess. 3:5; 2 Pet. 1:7
- II. THE APOSTLE EXPRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF A FULL EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD’S WILL TO THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER. Col. 1:9
 - A. “Filled” is from pleroo which means “to make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full.” -- Joseph Thayer.
 1. It is used of being filled by the Spirit. Eph. 5:18
 2. It is used again in the passive voice in Ephesians. Eph. 3:19
 - B. The use of the word “knowledge” is epiginosko which is a full experiential knowledge.
 1. A lack of a full experiential knowledge a matter affects how one conducts their life. Cf. Rom. 10:2 (seen in the Jew’s zeal); 2 Tim. 2:25 (those ensnared lack); 2 Tim. 3:7 (a lack experiential knowledge concerning “the truth” hinders overcoming the sin nature cf. Heb. 10:26)
 2. A full experiential knowledge sharpens the believer’s understanding of truth in any situation. Cf. 1st Tim. 2:4

III. THE APOSTLE EXPRESSES THE RESULT OF A FULL EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE
OF GOD'S WILL TO THE WALK OF THE BELIEVER. Col. 1:10-13
CONCLUSION