

THE ROOT CAUSE OF THANKSGIVING
Col. 1:1-12

INTRODUCTION

Complete knowledge has a direct effect upon the effectiveness of any discipline. No matter, the job, the greater the knowledge of the subject matter, the more proficient the task is handled. So it is with the believer. In our case, a perfect knowledge of God's desirous will is essential to the walk of a believer. Today, we will find that the one possessing such knowledge will have their walk impacted leading to thanksgiving.

- I. A FULL EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE DESIROUS WILL OF GOD IS PREREQUISITE TO THANKSGIVING. Col. 1:9
 - A. A full experiential knowledge is the word "epiginosis".
 1. Richard Trench in his Synonyms of the New Testament defines epiginosis as "**perfect knowledge; It is bringing me better acquainted with a thing I knew before; a more exact viewing of an object that I saw before afar off.**" cf. 1st Co. 13:12 (of revelation concerning what God is doing)
 2. Epiginosis is used in Scripture to explain **the graphic understanding that one obtains in any subject matter that allow for an unimpeded view of the matter; to recognize with complete clarity as opposed to fragmented knowledge.** Cf. Rom. 1:32 (of the Gentiles who recognized God's attitude towards unrighteousness) Rom. 3:20 (the Mosaic law provided for a full experiential knowledge of the sin nature)
 - B. God's desirous will entails God's plan and purpose that spring from His decree.
 1. The word translated "will" is thelamatos which entails the desire that God has for certain events to occur consistent with His plan and purposes for the ages.
 - a) Believers were predestinated according to. Eph. 1:5
 - b) Believers have been made an inheritance according to. Eph. 1:11
 - c) God made determinations according to. Eph. 1:11
 - d) God is operating all things according to. Eph. 1:11
 2. Paul desired that the Colossian believers be filled with a full experiential knowledge of God's will.
 - a) "Filled" is from pleroo which means "**to make full, to full up, i.e. to fill to the full.**" -- Joseph Thayer
 - b) The passive use of pleroo is used 89 times in the New Testament; 26 times in the epistles. Cf. Phil. 4:19 (of needs supplied); Phil. 1:11 (of the fruits of righteousness); Eph. 5:18 (the Holy Spirit is the instrument)

- c) The apostle list two results of being filled:
 - (1) With all wisdom -- sophia -- the proper application of knowledge. Cf. Acts 6:10 (displayed by Stephen); Eph. 3:10 (of God conveying to angels); Col. 4:5 (of the believer's walk toward the unbeliever)
 - (2) With all "spiritual understanding" is the ability supplied by the Holy Spirit to put things together. Cf. 2 Tim. 2:7 (of the Lord giving understanding in what Paul said); Eph. 3:4 (of the understanding of the mystery of "The Christ")

II. THE WALK OF BELIEVER IS IMPACTED BY A FULL EXPERIENTIAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE DESIROUS WILL OF GOD. Col. 1:10

- A. The word "walk" is peripateo which is used of the steps that believer takes in life.
 - 1. Walk is used in Scripture of the attitude of mind by which one operates in the various situations of life. Cf. 1st Co. 3:3 (the flesh is the means); 2 Co. 4:2 (craftiness is the means); 2 Co. 5:7 (faith is the means)
 - 2. The believer with a full experiential knowledge of God's desirous will can walk worthily of the Lord. vs. 10
 - a) He will walk into all pleasing --"**that cringing subservient attitude which one has who would do anything to please a benefactor.**" -- Reinecker Rogers lexicon
 - b) He will walk bearing fruit (pres. Act. part. Of karpos) in every good work.
 - c) He will walk growing (pres. Mid. part. of auxano -- to increase) in a full experiential knowledge of the Father.
 - d) He will walk being empowered (dunamoo --pres. Pass. part. -- **to be made able**). Vs. 11
 - (1) He will walk being empowered into all qualities of patience.
 - (2) He will walk being empowered into longsuffering.
 - (3) Both patience and longsuffering are loosely associated with "joy". vs.11
 - e) He will walk being empowered into all qualities of longsuffering
- B. Thanksgiving springs from the walk of a believer impacted by a full experiential knowledge of the desirous will of God. vs. 12
 - 1. "Giving thanks" is eucharisteo -- is the expression of grace shown towards the believer in the bestowing of some benefit.
 - a) "Giving thanks" is a sign of being filled by the Spirit. Eph. 5:20
 - b) "Giving thanks" is directed towards the Father. Col. 3:17; 1:12
 - 2. God's desirous will for the life of a believer in Christ is to give thanks in everything. 1st Thess. 5:18

3. The believer with a full experiential knowledge of the desirous will of God understands the Father's role in including the believer in His plan and purposes. Vs. 12
 - a) "Meet" is hikanoo which means "**to enable, qualify**". Cf. 2 Co. 3:6
 - b) "Partaker" is a sharer in common. Cf. 2 Co. 6:15
 - c) "Inheritance" is klayros which is used in Scripture of a promised benefit. Cf. Acts 7:5 (of the promise of land made to Abraham); Rom. 8:17 (believers are made joint-heirs to the things promised Christ)
 - (1) "The saints" -- the set apart ones. Cf. Rom. 12:13; Acts 26:10 (believers)
 - (2) "In the light" --- ones manifesting God's life. Cf. 1st. Pet. 2:9 (those called out of the darkness)

CONCLUSION