



In the last study we looked at the fact that Paul is wanting to deepen the understanding of the Christians in this area regarding the preeminence of Christ and the full and complete salvation he brings. He wants to show them that Jesus is not just another spiritual go between; – between God and man, but that he is unique in his identity and qualifications to bring full and lasting salvation into the lives of the lost.

**Discuss – How would you describe to someone, “why Jesus is unique:- is the only Way to God?”**  
**What do you think Jesus has really accomplished through His death and resurrection?**  
**What differences do you think these things can make in our everyday lives?**

**Read -** Colossians 1 v 9 – 14

We see within these verses how Paul is actively praying into the situation of this church that God’s wisdom and knowledge will not only be revealed to them but that it would become a living knowledge that feeds and deepens their faith. One thing is clear about these verses and that is, to know God’s will is about a spiritual revelation that comes as we seek the Lord and look to obey His purposes for our lives. Real knowledge is about discerning God’s will and intentions and obeying them. This results in us living a life that is worthy of the calling we have been given. This way of life takes a radical commitment of will, affection and disposition to please Jesus and helps us understand what is truly important from God’s perspective. For Paul he challenges the readers to bring their daily conduct and thinking in line with Christ’s will for them.

**Look up verses on doing God’s will and discuss:-**

Matthew 7v21 – 24, Romans 12 v1 – 2, Psalm 143 v 8 – 11, Matthew 12 v 48 – 50, Ephesians 5 v15 – 21, Hebrews 10 v36

**Discuss –** Do you think that most Christians really know God’s will for their lives? (give reasons for your answer)  
 Why do you think there are times when we struggle to understand God’s will for our lives or circumstances?  
 What do you think are the benefits to us in doing what the Lord desires in and through our lives?

If we endeavour to really lay hold of God’s ongoing will for our lives in our everyday situations then Paul declares that there will be evidence of this. The reason for this is that to do God’s will is to be in the centre of His provision and blessing. For when He calls us He also equips us and fully honours our best efforts. When we walk the path that the Lord has marked out for us we find his provision and grace along the way to strengthen us and empower us for His service.

**Signs that someone is truly surrendered to God’s will are:-**

- (1) Bearing greater fruit both in character and good works, through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- (2) Growing in a continual knowledge of God that is both in understanding and in practice in the context of relationship.
- (3) Being strengthened in your inner self with the power of God to persevere and endure I \_\_\_\_\_ n your circumstances for God.
- (4) joyful thanksgiving whatever your circumstances for you know that you are following in the footsteps of Jesus in doing the will of the Father who is in heaven.

**Discuss –** Do you believe that a Christian who is in the centre of God’s will can still go through hardship and yet will manifest fruit and joy even in the midst of adversity ? (Give reason for your answer)  
 In what area would you expect a Christian to show growth in if they are living right with Jesus?

Paul has prayed for inner knowledge and understanding for the believers at colosse, he has opened up for them some of the knock on effects of this knowledge being manifested in their lives and relationship with the Lord. Now he reveals to them to reason why they should be about the will of Jesus.

Paul now begins to deepen an understanding of the sufficiency of Christ in the reality of salvation. He highlights that God through Christ has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the Kingdom. Through Christ we have been made legal heirs to the Kingdom by adoption into the Family of God through Faith. What he is declaring to us is that we should do the will of the Father because He has rescued us from the rule and dominion of darkness and brought us into His Kingdom of light. This is what Jesus has come to do in the lives of humanity. He has come to set us free from the slavery of sin and the prince of darkness and his evil domain.

What is described is a transformation process that transports us from bondage to one kingdom (kingdom of Satan and under His authority of sin, sickness and darkness) – to freedom in another Kingdom (freedom under Christ’s authority and citizens in the Kingdom of God.) We are in every sense redeemed and delivered from the spiritual forces of evil through the power and authority of the slain Lamb of God. Through being washed in His blood our sin is washed away, our guilt is covered over and the justice of God is satisfied. Through this act we become a people of the Kingdom who are now under the authority and direction of Jesus. This change in Lordship means in every sense a change of Kingdom for you and for me. What is clear is that for Paul it is the need of every human being to be delivered from sin and the evil powers that keep us captive in our lostness. Through Jesus, God has rescued believers from the tyrannical rule of darkness, sin and death and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son He loves. Because of this we have present deliverance and the promise of future Glory in Christ and His inheritance.