

# TRUE KNOWLEDGE & ITS EFFECT



*2 Peter 3:18 -- But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory...*

## Introduction

1. Paul prayed that the brethren at Colossae would be filled with the knowledge of God's will. It was to dwell in them richly (Colossians 3:16), and administered to others in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
2. This knowledge was to be added to their faith (2 Peter 1:5), to grow along with God's grace (See opening passage), and was to be in all spiritual wisdom and understanding (Colossians 1:9).
3. True knowledge should also result in right conduct. In his prayers and writings, Paul mentions three characteristics of life that should follow.

## A. A Life of Service

*Colossians 1:10 -- So that you may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

1. **Walk worthily.** This is the challenge that the apostle put to the church. They were to walk worthy of their calling. Christians are to walk worthy of the gospel.  
*Acts 2:39 -- For the promise is to you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.*  
*Ephesians 4:1 -- I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, entreat you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you were called.*  
*Philippians 1:27 -- Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.*
2. **Bearing fruit.** They were to do this in every good work. We are raised to bear fruit. Every branch, Jesus told His disciples, must bear fruit. Christians are to be ready for every good work.  
*Romans 7:4 -- Therefore, my brethren, you also were made to die to the Law through the body of Christ, that you might be joined to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, that we might bear fruit for God.*  
*John 15:1-8 -- ...every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it, that it may bear more fruit... As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine... if anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch...*  
*Titus 3:1,8,14 -- Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed... this is a trustworthy statement; and concerning these things I want you to speak confidently, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to engage in good deeds. These things are good and profitable for men... And let our people also learn to engage in good deeds to meet pressing needs that they may not be unfruitful.*
3. **Increasing** in this knowledge they were to be. All spiritual growth depends on the knowledge of God's will. Not by human philosophy, social gospel, or recreation.  
*Colossians 2:8-10 -- See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority.*

## B. A Life of Strength

**Colossians 1:11** -- Strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously...

1. Christians need to know what this power is and obtain it.  
**Ephesians 1:19-20** -- And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.
2. We need to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.  
**Philippians 3:10** -- That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.
3. As we work in God, God works in us.  
**Philippians 2:12-13** -- So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
4. We can do all through Christ.  
**Philippians 4:13** -- I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
5. The result is that we have patience (steadfastness) and long suffering with joy.  
**Matthew 5:10-12** -- Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men cast insults at you, and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely, on account of Me. Rejoice, and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.  
**Acts 5:41** -- So they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.

## C. A Life of Praise

**Colossians 1:12** -- Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

1. Christians are to praise the Father (this denotes us as children) for His blessings. He has made us qualified (fit, suitable) to be partakers with the saints in light. We were once in darkness and are now in the light, thus sons of light, if we continue to walk in it.  
**Ephesians 5:8** -- For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light...  
**1 Thessalonians 5:5** -- For you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness.  
**1 John 1:7** -- But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.
2. We have been delivered and translated by the love of God and the redemption to be found in Jesus Christ.  
**Colossians 1:13-14** -- For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
3. Its effect should also be that we are grateful for what God has provided, for the gospel that was preached. We should always be ready to respond in prayer, unceasingly, with joy and thanksgiving for every blessing in every moment of our lives.