

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

October 14, 2020

Colossians 1:9-11

His Glorious Power

We will begin today's lesson by following a three step path in understanding.

Step 3; What does it mean to walk worthy of the Lord? We all know we cannot ever hope to earn God's favor or wish Him to judge us to have achieved a status before Him that might cause Him to elevate us above others. Face it. We are not worthy of the Lord nor can we be. We're sinners separated from Him in every conceivable way. The Greek for the word 'worthy' is *axios*. It speaks of behaving appropriately and is rooted in the concept of having weight. We might think of this as having children at the dinner table. Proper manners when dining among adults will allow them to have an acceptable place at the table. They may eat even with poor manners but how pleased will their elders be? Our walking worthy of the Lord implies that we must live our lives as representatives of Him. We must act in such a way as to demonstrate to others that He has changed us and given us a godly character. We behave appropriately as Christians which gives us 'weight' among members of society. Intolerance and persecution of Christians is increasing in many regions of the populace but we are to be model citizens. Well spoken of by saved and unsaved alike. Consider Romans 13:1-7. We ought to be pleasant members of society as well as pleasing to God in all things. Philippians 1:27. These Colossians were quite pleasing to Paul as well as the Lord. Our desire in life should be one of seeking to think right, do right and be right. We can do this as a thankfulness to Jesus who has forgiven us of our sins not as an endeavor to earn His favor. Of course prayer, knowledge, wisdom and understanding are key in bringing us into His will in this way. All this fits the description of fellowship with God.

Step 2; Walking worthy as discussed above requires a unique infusion of God's Holy Spirit. How are we strengthened with all might? Two forms of a Greek word come together to tell us. 'Strengthened' is *dunamo-o*. This is to enable or make strong. Do you go to the gym? You work hard to gain strength. Here, God does the work. We gain the ability. 'Might' is *dunamis* meaning force or miraculous power. Think for a moment. We are given miraculous power to enable us to live in an appropriate manner to represent God to others. Stop trying to act like a Christian. You can't. Actors might fool many but the truth will always be revealed. Christians are real people miraculously strengthened by God. Ephesians 3:16, 6:10.

Step 1; Long before we were saved or even created; long before the universe was created, The Eternal and Infinite God, self existed in Glorious Power. This is the core of His Wonderful Title. The I AM. His Glorious Power introduces His Eternal Name. YHWH. Don't try to pronounce that. Inhale Exhale. He is All Life, giving first life to His creation. God's Glorious Power in the Greek is '*kratos te's doxe's*' Apologies to Greek students. This phrase denotes a 'brilliantly displayed force or energy' Think lightning, the Aurora, the sun, an explosion. Somehow all that falls woefully short. How does God's Word describe this? Hebrews 1:3, John 1:14, Revelation 21:23. Not enough? Compare Revelation 4:2-11 to Isaiah 6:1-5 to Ezekiel 1:22-28. This will be summed up soon through Christ in verses 14 to 20 of this chapter. Our step 1 is God Himself. Glorious. Perfect. All Powerful. He strengthens us with His Power to walk worthy before Him. He considers us worthy in Jesus Christ. We were worth His sacrifice because of His powerful love for us and His joy in including us in His family. Hebrews 12:2.

Power. Following the dictates of the Christian life can be difficult. Impossible. We are told we have the power to live in Him. We have the power to overcome sin. We have the power to say no, to control our thoughts and actions. Yet we fail repeatedly. Why? Because we are always trying to be in control. Even trying to control our bad choices. We try to force or trick ourselves into avoiding sin. Read Matthew 6:33. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." When we consider the "things" listed in the previous verses they are limited to the physical needs and desires of this world. If we truly seek His kingdom and righteousness we could easily add to this list; self control, overcoming sin, controlling thoughts and actions. Don't misread that. He won't add these to our abilities. Matthew is clear. He will assume control. He will apply His miraculous power to the failures in our lives. If we put Him first, He puts us first. If we only seek His kingdom and righteousness, He will add to us His Glorious Power which changes us on the inside. The failures fall away because the desires fall away. They are replaced by our desire for Him. We can't hold both. Salvation is a process. Continue to choose Christ every moment. All day, every day.

The power to walk worthy is in God's Hands. Not yours. Also in His power is your patience, longsuffering and joyfulness. Stop trying. They are His to give to those who seek Him. Paul's prayers for the Colossians included all this and hopefully addresses us as well.