

# Christ the Preeminent One

## The Need to Know

- Often times people can be concerned more with action than with thought:
  - Practice is more popular than precept:
  - Practical without the principle:
  - "Don't bother me with the theology, all I want is a few guidelines on how to live"
- The apostle Paul knew that genuine Christian conduct flows from thinking correctly on Christian truth:
- Paul's prayer is a Christ based prayer:

### I. The Circumstances of Paul's Prayer (1:9a, cf. 1:3-8; 2:8-23)

#### A. The Condition of the Church (1:3-8)

The grammar looks back at the heritage of the church (Διὰ τοῦτο):

The phrase "since the day we heard" (ἀφ' ἧς ἡμέρας) looks back to the day when Ephraim arrived in Rome with his report to Paul:

- Their existence in Christ:
- Their love for the saints:
- Their love in Spirit:

### I. The Circumstances of Paul's Prayer (1:9a, cf. 1:3-8; 2:8-23)

#### A. The Condition of the Church (1:3-8)

#### B. The Danger to the Church (2:8-23)

The content looks forward to the heresy that faces the church:

The apostle Paul's warning here rests upon and flows out of the fact of Christ's unshared supremacy (2:9) and His complete sufficiency to meet human need (2:10-15):

Because of who He is and what we have in Him, any system "not according to Christ" (2:8) must be wrong:

### I. The Circumstances of Paul's Prayer (1:9a, cf. 1:3-8; 2:8-23)

#### II. The Character of Paul's Prayer (1:9a)

##### A. Care and concern (Διὰ τοῦτο):

##### B. Collective (Cooperative) (καὶ ἡμεῖς):

##### C. Commenced instantly (ἀφ' ἧς ἡμέρας):

##### D. Comprehensive (προσευχόμενοι καὶ αἰτούμενοι):

##### E. Ceaseless (οὐ παύμεθα...προσευχόμενοι καὶ αἰτούμενοι):

##### F. Clearly considered aim (περιπατήσσαι):

### I. The Circumstances of Paul's Prayer (1:9a, cf. 1:3-8; 2:8-23)

#### II. The Character of Paul's Prayer (1:9a)

#### III. The Content of Paul's Prayer (1:9b)

##### A. That You Might be Filled with the Knowledge of His Will (ἵνα πληρωθῆτε τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ) (1:9b)

##### 1. To be filled (ἵνα πληρωθῆτε)

##### The Implications:

- It reflects the imperfect state of those prayed for (3:1-4, 5ff):

- It reflects the importance of progress to fullness (1:28, 29, 2:1-5):

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##### 1. To be filled (ἵνα πληρωθῆτε)

##### 2. To be filled with a full knowledge (τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν)

### 2. To be filled with a full knowledge (τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν)

#### a) It is intensified (ἐπίγνωσιν):

It is a deep and accurate comprehension:

#### b) It is personal:

This is not merely an intellectual knowledge but a personal, living knowledge:

It is that which penetrates and grasps its object:

#### c) It is religious and moral:

It is especially used of the knowledge of God and Christ as being the perfection of knowledge:

Such knowledge of God's will is the foundation of all Christian character and conduct:

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##### 1. To be filled (ἵνα πληρωθῆτε)

##### 2. To be filled with a full knowledge (τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν)

##### 3. To be filled with a full knowledge of His will (τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ)

### The Surrounding Context

1:3-8 *The hope of the Gospel;*  
*The wide spread of the Gospel;*  
*The service of the Gospel*  
 1:9-14 *That they may be filled to the fullness*  
 1:15-20 *The fullness of Christ*  
 1:23 *The hope of the Gospel;*  
*The wide spread of the Gospel;*  
*The service of the Gospel*

I. The Circumstances of Paul's Prayer (1:9a, cf. 1:3-8; 2:8-23)

II. The Character of Paul's Prayer (1:9a)

III. The Content of Paul's Prayer (1:9b)

IV. The Consequence of Paul's Prayer (1:10-14)

A. That You Might Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Lord (1:10a)

1. To walk (περιπατήσαι):

2. To walk **worthy of the Lord** (περιπατήσαι **ἀξίως τοῦ κυρίου**):

2. To walk **worthy of the Lord** (περιπατήσαι **ἀξίως τοῦ κυρίου**):

a) *It is a balanced walk* (ἀξίως):

"Having the weight of (weighing as much as) another thing."

Literally it means "to bring up the other beam of the scales."

b) *It is balanced with how the Lord would walk* (τοῦ κυρίου):

Therefore walk the Lord's walk:

I. The Circumstances of Paul's Prayer (1:9a, cf. 1:3-8; 2:8-23)

II. The Character of Paul's Prayer (1:9a)

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3. To walk worthy of the Lord **unto all pleasing** (εἰς πᾶσαν ἀρεσκείαν):

I. The Circumstances of Paul's Prayer (1:9a, cf. 1:3-8; 2:8-23)

II. The Character of Paul's Prayer (1:9a)

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A. That You Might Walk in a Manner Worthy of the Lord (1:10a)

B. The Manner of that Worthy Walk (1:10b-14)

These four traits are portrayed as typical of the believer, not as the only marks of the Christian:  
 These, however, can be divided into three ideas (1) continued growth, (2) strength, and (3) thanksgiving to the Father:

B. The Manner of that Worthy Walk (1:10b-14)

1. Bearing fruit and Growing (ἐν παντὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ καρποφοροῦντες καὶ αὐξανόμενοι τῇ ἐπιγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ) (1:10b)

2. Being strengthened (ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει δυναμούμενοι κατὰ τὸ κράτος τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ εἰς πᾶσαν ὑπομονὴν καὶ μακροθυμίαν) (1:11)

3. Giving thanks (χαρὰς εὐχαριστοῦντες τῷ πατρὶ) (1:12-14)