

Wisdom and Understanding

Do You Have Both of These?

Colossians 1:1-11

Colossians 1:1-11

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| 1 | Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, |
| 2 | To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ <i>who are</i> at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. |
| 3 | We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, |
| 4 | since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints; 1 John 3:21-24 |
| 5 | because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel |
| 6 | which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit (by unbelievers being saved) and increasing, (throughout the world) <i>even as it has been doing</i> in you also since the day you heard <i>of it</i> and understood the grace of God in truth; |
| 7 | just as you learned <i>it</i> from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on your behalf, |
| 8 | and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit. |

Spiritual Love . . . Verses 9-11 we have 7 petitions

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| 9 | For this reason also, since the day we heard <i>of it</i>, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that 1 you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, |
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- 10 <2> **so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,**
 <3> **to please *Him* in all respects,**
 <4> **bearing fruit in every good work and**
 <5> **increasing in the knowledge of God;**
- 11 <6> **strengthened with all power, according to His glorious
 might,**
 <7> **for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience;
 joyously**

In verse 9 **For this reason** issues expressed in verses 4-8 like their Faith in JESUS CHRIST and Spiritual Love toward all the saints, and confidence laid up for them in heaven and how the gospel is increasing in them, because of all the sound doc Epaphras has taught them—

also, modifies or adds to **we give thanks to God** in verse 3, now also, along with giving thanks to God for you we offer these 7 petitions for you **since the day we heard *of it***, that is all the things that has been reported about these believers like

your love in the Spirit. things just mentioned

we have not ceased to pray for you Present tense of the verb to pray—meaning they constantly pray for your benefit.

Most of the time people pray for believers who are **having trouble**, who are failing in growth in knowledge of JESUS CHRIST; failure in living in a manner not pleasing to God, those who live in sin... but I want you to note **who** Paul prays for.

He prays for those believers who are in the Angelic Conflict, those growing in knowledge of the Word of God, those striving to walk by Faith in the Holy Spirit, living in a manner that is pleasing to God. Loving One Another in the power of the Holy Spirit. These are the ones in the Angelic Conflict; these are the targets of Satan and of the world; **these are the ones in need of your daily prayers.**

And ask we now start some PRIMARY PETITIONS.

that this begins the list of petitions that Paul has for these believers and it will serve as a **wonderful guide** for each of us in our prayers for other believers. Please note he starts off with desire for them to have Knowledge of the Word of God.

1st **you may be filled** In studying the Word of God we must ask pertinent questions. Here... **who is the agent of their being filled?**

We might first be inclined to answer: **God!**

But lets look at the request—**that you may be filled.**

Then lets look at the Greek mood, this is in the **subjunctive mood**, this tells us this is not completely up to God,...why the subjunctive mood? Maybe they will be filled maybe not...why would not not be filled?

This introduces the 2nd point: **it will depend on them being faithful to the teaching of the Word of God.**

3rd They must listen to a **sound teacher** of the Word of God. So this means they must continually sit under a Pastor-Teacher like Epaphras who studies and teaches sound doctrine from the Word of God.

4th This also means they **must learn under the power and teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit.** So their (by application—we) being filled is a grace system God has set up for us to learn His Word and His Will.

that you may be filled is the Aorist Passive Subjunctive of the verb **pleroo** to fill, to make full.

The Greek verb **pleroo** means full; to make full; to fill.

I.	First to fill up a Deficiency.
	The moment we believe in JESUS CHRIST as Savior we have are <u>deficient</u> of so many spiritual assets. Yes, God gives us 34 spiritual things but we are deficient of His Word... of Wisdom. God helps us with this deficiency by supplying us with the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:5) and with the eternal canon of Scripture. But it is up to each one of us to be Filled with the Holy Spirit and that by Grace through Faith and then that we find a teacher of sound doctrine and listen and grow in the Knowledge of the Word of God.

II.	This verb means to fill up with a specified quality . This is especially important.
	<p>So many Christians fill their souls up with false doctrine, sloppy doctrines, emotionalism.</p> <p>This verb beckons us to fill our souls, our thinking with sound doctrinal teaching that is true to the gospel.</p> <p>This concept of filling up with highest of quality is vital to every Pastor-teacher.</p>

1 Timothy 4:6

⁶ **In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, *constantly* nourished on the words of the faith and/even of the sound doctrine which you have been following.**

1 Timothy 6:3

³ **If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,**

2 Timothy 4:3

³ **For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but *wanting* to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,**

Titus 1:9

⁹ **holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, so that he will be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.**

Titus 2:1

¹ **But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.**

III. To fully possess

Paul desires that these believers be fully possessed of the Word of God and the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

IV. To fully influence

Ask yourselves, what influences me in my daily life? Is it obtaining of money? Pleasure? Politics? Possessing things? Well, people as members of the body of Christ, here is the greatest thing you can pursue in your life, the richest possession you can obtain...Knowledge and Wisdom from the Word of God...

One Final Point

This verb is in the **Passive voice** which means you receive this by the intake of the Word of God... listening, believing the Word of God. First you find a teacher who is teaching sound doctrine and then you listen and grow.

Warning this verb is in the Subjunctive mood, which means, **maybe** you will be filled with all these riches, **maybe not**, it is up to you...making daily decisions about the intake of sound doctrine.

Colossians 1:9

⁹ **For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray to God the Father for you** Paul starting praying the day he heard of these believers **and to ask** here is Paul's desire for these believers **that you may be filled.**

Now what does Paul pray for these believers?

that they be filled saturated and fully possessed **with the knowledge**

OK, here is yet another rich word **epignosis** this is one of the riches words for knowledge. "because it expresses a more thorough participation in the acquiring of knowledge on the part of the learner".

This word refers to knowledge that strongly influences one's life. There is knowledge that will get you on Jeopardy, there is knowledge that will carry you at the Judgment Seat of Christ, and this is the knowledge that Paul is referring to here.

I like what the scholar **R. C. H. Lenski** said about this phrase:
"that there would be no holes in their knowledge of his will, so that they would not substitute anything else for any part of it."

Richard C. H. Lenski
(Born Sep 14, 1864
in Greifenberg, Brandenburg-Prussia (now Gryfice, Poland)
Died 1936)
was a German-born American-naturalized Lutheran scholar, and author,
who published a series of Lutheran New Testament commentaries

Here is where you have to decide for yourself:

Is the Word of God sufficient for your needs?

or

Do you need to go outside of the His Word for answers?

Is Christ sufficient for your Salvation?

Is the Word of God sufficient for your life?

With the Knowledge of His will

This is not referring to Knowledge of the Will of God for the ages, although this is included, this is referring to the will of God for your life as a member of the body of Christ. God has a plan, a will for every born again believer.

This is a knowledge that transforms your hearts and minds, and brings you into an intimate relationship with God.

Please remember, this is why JESUS CHRIST came: to bring us to the Father; this is why the Holy Spirit was supplied to us at salvation: to bring us into an intimate relationship with God.

- This includes the local-church where you can grow in the knowledge of the Word of God.

- This includes marriage.

- The **Geographical** will of God for your life.

- The **occupational will of God and the directive will of God.**

The **DIRECTIVE WILL OF GOD FOR YOUR LIFE** is the most important, for it is **ONLY** by and through the Spirit Filled Life that any believer lives in the Will of God.

YOU CANNOT LEARN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE WORD OF GOD
WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT.

You cannot live a life that is pleasing to God
without the Filling of the Holy Spirit.

So the most important of all doctrines for the believer is how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit.

There is a great deal of erroneous teaching on how to be
Filled with the Holy Spirit

Some emphasize 🖐️ repentance, 🖐️ confession, 🖐️ yielding, 🖐️ feeling sorry for your sins, 🖐️ going to church, 🖐️ setting your mind on the things of the Holy Spirit, etc.

All of these depend on man doing something.

Are you confessing enough, are you yielded enough, etc.

We know we are not saved, delivered from the wages of sin by anything we do, so we are not going to be delivered from personal sins as a believer by anything we do.

But I love the way Bill Bright of Campus Crusade for Christ words it:

**“We are filled with the Holy Spirit by Faith.
How did you become a Christian?
By Faith.**

**“It is by Grace you have been saved, through Faith –
and this not from yourselves,
it is the Gift of God—not by works,
so that no one can boast.”**

**“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord,
continue to live in him.”**

Bill Bright goes on:

**Again, you are not filled with the Holy Spirit because
you desire to be filled nor because you confess your
sins or present your body a living sacrifice — YOU ARE
FILLED BY FAITH.**

There is no place in Scripture where you are told
to pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit.
You are filled by Faith.

The problem is that Bill Bright does not say WHAT or WHO is the
Object of that Faith. And we must remember that it is not Faith
that has the power but the Object of Faith has the power.

The Object of Faith for our eternal life salvation is Jesus Christ.

The Object of our Faith for spirituality is God the Holy Spirit

God the Father sent His **Son** for our **Salvation**
and
He sent His **Spirit for our Spirituality.**

L. S. Chafer in chapter 7 of his book "*True Spirituality*" walks the believer through the theological steps of being Filled with the Holy Spirit by Faith in the Holy Spirit.

Colossians 1:9

⁹ **For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will** now we are ready for the next phrase: **in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**

Here we have Wisdom and Understanding, but not just any understanding, and not just any wisdom, but Spiritual Wisdom and Spiritual Understanding.

Let's not speed read past **all;.... in all spiritual wisdom.**

To grasp the significance of *all*, we must grasp the significance of **wisdom.**

Wisdom The Greek **Sophia** from which we get the English word sophomore.

The search for Wisdom is one of the basic desires of man.

This search begins in the first book given to us by God.

Job 28:12

¹² **“But where can wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding?”**

Job 28:20

²⁰ **“Where then does wisdom come from? And where is the place of understanding?”**

Colossians 1:9

⁹ **we pray for you and ask that you may be filled in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.**

I hope everyone of you see it! See that these two words in Job are the same two words in Colossians Wisdom and Understanding.

Job in Job 28:12 and 20 ask where can Wisdom be found?

I want to say with all due respect---this is what every parent—father and mother are designed to teach their children. But they have to know where it is found.

They have to know Wisdom. Ok, where can Wisdom be found?

Question:

Does Job answer his own questions?

Yes he does.

Job 28:23

²³ **“God understands its Wisdom way, And He knows its place. That is, God knows where it can be found. So, if you desire Wisdom, you have to go to the Word of God. Is the Word of God sufficient for you to learn Wisdom? or do you need to go to the writings of man?”**

What about Understanding?

Job 28:28 We have both the words as have in Colossians 1:9,
Wisdom and Understanding.

²⁸ **“And to man He said, ‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;**

The Hebrew word for **fear** is usually used in a positive connotation. Not so much to fear as we might fear danger but fear as maximum respect.

However it is Wisdom to fear the Lord so as not to sin against Him.

²⁸ **And to depart from evil is understanding.**’

Here again we have a clear declaration of our society today...we do not depart from evil, but rather we embrace evil today from the Judicial system down to the open criminal.

Another passage that has both concepts of Wisdom and Understanding together is in Psalm.

Psalm 111:10

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*; His praise endures forever.**

Both Job 28 and Psalm 111 use the same word for **fear**.

On the one hand it refers to awe or maximum respect of God, but depending on one's circumstances it refers to a fear that prevents one from sinning (Exodus 20:20) and it is the motivation to learn more and more of sound doctrine.

Psalm 119:38

³⁸ **Establish Your word to Your servant, As that which produces reverence for You.** Note the word **establish**. This goes along with the phrase **you may be filled** in Colossians 1:9

The Hebrew **establish** is very close to the Greek **to fill**.

God will cause His word to be *established in you or that you be filled* when we get under a teacher of sound doctrine and learn and grow in the Word of God by the ministry of the Holy Spirit when we believe the Word of God and are trusting His Spirit to teach us .

Lets stop right here and see what we have learned about
Wisdom and Understanding.

WISDOM

- 1 God knows where Wisdom is to be found—in Him and in His word.
- 2 Fear/awe of the Lord is Wisdom.
- 3 His word brings fear which is Wisdom.

UNDERSTANDING

- 1 Depart from evil.
- 2 A good Understanding has all who lives to please God; Walking, living in a manner that is pleasing to God.

Wisdom and Understanding are so important to our daily lives, making decisions each day, we need Wisdom. But living by the Wisdom of God is one of the most profound witnesses that we can make.

Deuteronomy 4:6

⁶ **“So keep and do *them*, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’**

Parents, this is what you should desire for your children, not that they are smart, intelligent, but that people come to them and say wow, **you are so wise...where did you get such wisdom?** Right here they are forced to witness of Christ....***from the Word of God, from growing in the knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.***

Here is another issue of Wisdom—Wisdom from God will guide you in all your decision making and in voting!

Ezra 7:25

²⁵ **“You, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God** Let me show you the Wisdom of Ezra, he was both priest and scribe of the Jews...he led a large number of Jews back to Israel from Babylonian captivity. He did much to establish the Truth among the people and he helped in rebuilding the Temple and the walls of Jerusalem.

²⁵ **You, Ezra according to the wisdom of your God which is in your hand,** (at your disposal and under your control) **appoint magistrates and judges that they may judge all the people who are in *the province beyond the River, even all those who know the laws of your God;*** (and what happens if there are none who know the Word of God, know the Wisdom of God?) **and you may teach anyone who is ignorant *of them.***
And what happens if they refuse to learn the Wisdom of God? They receive the wrath of God.

And parents who are wise, begin teaching their very young children the Holy Scriptures:

2 Timothy 3:15

¹⁵ **and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** Again, here is the simple gospel for all the ages.

While James deals with the two sources of wisdom in James 3:15 and 17: wisdom from man and Wisdom from God.

James 3:15,17

15 **This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.**

15 **But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy. This is the Wisdom we learn from Word of God.**

Paul in his writing to the Corinthians in the first two chapters of 1 Corinthians gives an extensive dissertation on Wisdom.

1 Corinthians 1:19-24,30

19 **For it is written, “I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE.”**

20 **Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?**

21 **For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.**

22 **For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom;**

23 **but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,**

24 **but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.**

30 **But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,**

The Wisdom of God is Jesus Christ!

This is the reason why we are studying Colossians so that you will have full knowledge and Wisdom.

Colossians 1:9

9 **For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**

Understanding We are just in the 9th verse of the first chapter of Colossians and note the words we have already had. First in verse 6 **and understood the grace of God in truth** Here we saw the word **epiginosko** which we saw means to fully know to fully understand.

Then in verse 7 **as you learned** Greek **manthano** which means to learn from listening—to learn so that you understand.

Then here in verse 9 **that you may be filled with the knowledge** which is the noun form of the verb we just noted, here **epignosis** to be committed to learning and Understanding.

Now we come to the fact this is not referring to human wisdom or any understanding that comes with one's IQ.

This is **spiritual understanding, spiritual wisdom.**

Spiritual pneumatikos Here is yet another word you have to be careful when someone uses this term. It goes along with Grace, Faith, Love, Gospel and Spiritual—You have to know what the speaker means by these words for rarely do their definition come strictly from the Word of God. Here this word refers to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Pertaining to or proceeding from the Holy Spirit.

For example:

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

⁴ **and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,** now look at the next verse—where the HS is the object of faith

⁵ **so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.** Who in the prior verse identified the power of God as the Holy Spirit—so our Faith is in the Holy Spirit.

Here is something that multitudes, even Christians, do not like to talk about, **JUDGMENT**. Many Christians do not believe that God is going to judge unrighteousness in individuals are in this nation.

But lets look at Romans 1:18

¹⁸ **For the wrath of God judgment is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

And this is what Wisdom is well aware of and is not afraid to speak:

Psalm 37:30

³⁰ **The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks judgement.** Wisdom is knowing there are repercussions for all our decisions...something parents need to teach their children.

One of the responsibilities of the Pastor-Teacher is to teach the shortness of life and then the Judgment Seat of Christ

Psalm 90:12

¹² **So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom.** Do you have enough days to spend being addicted to drugs, pornography, the making of money, FACEBOOK, the TV, etc.

Are these going to be of any value at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Colossians 1:9

⁹ **For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled your soul saturated with the knowledge that comes only from the Word of God of His will for you individually in all spiritual wisdom centered on the person of JESUS CHRIST and understanding,**

We have seen over and over verses where **Wisdom** and **Understanding** are linked together. What is the difference of **Wisdom** and **Understanding** and why do they go together.

The Greek word for Wisdom

refers to *skill, tact, expertise in any art*. So we understand Biblical Wisdom as the expertise in applying doctrine to the circumstances of life.

The Hebrew word for Wisdom

also refers to *skill, experience*.

The Greek word for Understanding

means **to comprehend, to reason out**; it denotes the ability to understand concepts and see relationships between them.

The Hebrew word for Understanding **comprehension, discernment.**

So... Biblical Wisdom is the ability to apply doctrine to the circumstances of life... like making decisions.

And **Biblical Understanding** is the ability to know or understand Why!

The fear, the maximus respect of God is the beginning of Wisdom Jesus Christ is the Wisdom of God.

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are* at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.
³ We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you
⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;
⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel
⁶ which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;
⁷ just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,
⁸ and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.
⁹ For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
¹⁰ so that you will 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;
¹¹ strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously

You have to make up your mind:

Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:
to God the Father;
and to you?**

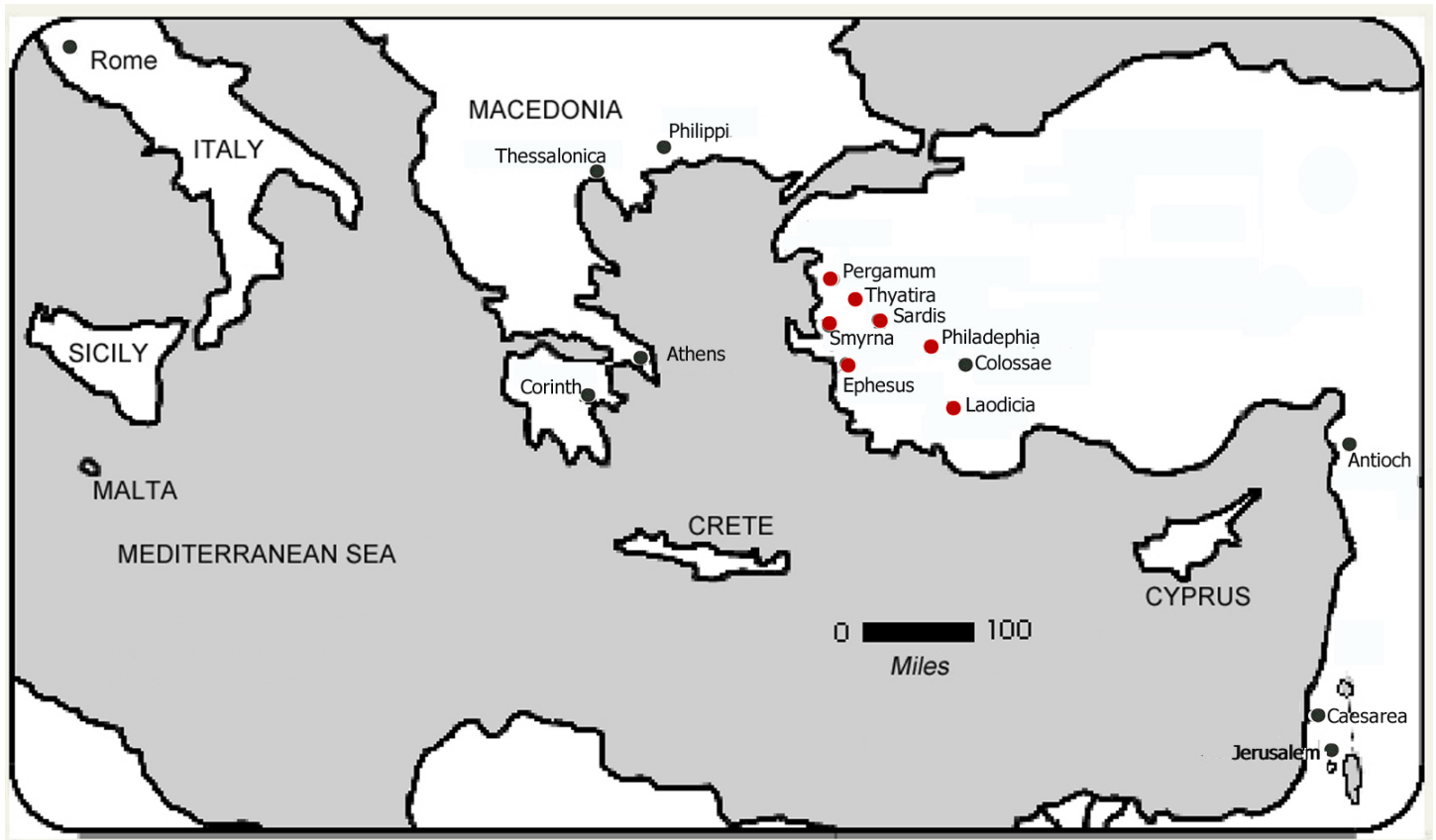
Is the Word of God sufficient for you?

Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the World of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in your life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true Understanding of the Gospel.



*“Two little lines I heard one day,
Traveling along life's busy way,
Bringing conviction to my heart,
And from my mind would not depart;
ONLY ONE LIFE, 'TWILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.*

*Only one life, yes only one,
Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet,
And stand before His Judgement seat;
ONLY ONE LIFE, 'TWILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.*

*Only one life, the still small voice,
Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave,
And to God's holy will to cleave;*

***ONLY ONE LIFE, 'T WILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.***

*Only one life, a few brief years,
Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its days I must fulfill,
living for self or in His will;*

***ONLY ONE LIFE, 'T WILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.***

*When this bright world would tempt me sore,
When Satan would a victory score;
When self would seek to have its way,
Then help me Lord with joy to say;
ONLY ONE LIFE, 'T WILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.*

*Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
ONLY ONE LIFE, 'T WILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.*

*Oh let my love with fervor burn,
And from the world now let me turn;
Living for Thee, and Thee alone,
Bringing Thee pleasure on Thy throne;
ONLY ONE LIFE, 'T WILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.*

*Only one life, yes only one,
Now let me say, "Thy will be done";
And when at last I'll hear the call,
I know I'll say "twas worth it all";
ONLY ONE LIFE, 'T WILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.*

--- extra stanza ---

*ONLY ONE LIFE, 'T WILL SOON BE PAST,
ONLY WHAT'S DONE FOR CHRIST WILL LAST.
AND WHEN I AM DYING, HOW HAPPY I'LL BE,
IF THE LAMP OF MY LIFE HAS BEEN
BURNED OUT FOR THEE."*

C.T Studd