

ARE YOU INCREASING IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD?

Colossians 1:9-10

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⁹ **For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask**
(we now have 7 prayer petitions for these believers... remember, this can serve as an outline for your prayers for others)
that <1> you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

¹⁰ **<2> so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,**

We spent some time on **‘walking’** and even though you have a print-out, I want to simplify our study so that you may remember it.

1. **Walking** as a course of your life.
2. **Walking** emphasizes the one day at time Principle of your life.
3. Three absolutes in **walking** as a Christian:
Walk in the Holy Spirit;
Walk by Faith;
Walk in the Word of God.
4. **Walk** With the Lord, Before the Lord, After the Lord.

5. The **worthy walk**:
Worthy of the Lord—Colossians 1:10;
Worthy of God the Father—1 Thessalonians 2:12;
Worthy of Your Calling—Ephesians 4:1;
Walk in Good Works—Ephesians 2:10;
Walk according to the Law of Love—Romans 14:13-23.

6. **Walking** in reference to Self: You will not desire the will of God for your life if you do not value your life!!!

7. Some negatives:
How the believer is **not to walk**:
Not walk according to the flesh—Romans 10:1-3 (*not in the desires of the flesh nor in the energy of the flesh*)
Not walk in craftiness or shrewdness 2 Corinthians 4:1-2
(*in your Work, in your Marriage, in your Social Life*)
Not walk according to your own plans—Jeremiah 18:12
Not walk after other gods or in idolatry—Jeremiah 7:6

Colossians 1:10

¹⁰ <3> **to please *Him* in all respects**, (just remember without Faith in the Holy Spirit, it is impossible to please God.)
<4> **bearing fruit in every good work and**
(now we come to the 5th prayer petition)
increasing in the knowledge of God;

bearing fruit was a Present Active Participle—denoting that this is up to each believer whether he/she will bear fruit for God.

But **increasing in knowledge** is Present Passive Participle which means that the believer receives increased Knowledge of God. The verb *to increase* means to grow; to increase; to add to.

They certainly have Knowledge of God, but now Paul prays that they will continue to add to that Knowledge (more knowledge about God.)

The word **knowledge** is very important here. There are several Greek word to *Knowledge*. Lets look at a Greek Lexicon (**The Complete Wordstudy Dictionary of the New Testament**).

This Greek word (**epignosis**) is more intense than **gnosis knowledge**, because it expresses a more thorough participation in the acquiring of **Knowledge** on the part of the learner.

In the New Testament, it often refers to **Knowledge** which very powerfully influences the form of religious life, a Knowledge laying claim to personal involvement.”

So the question is:

How does a believer receive increased Knowledge of God?

Simple:

By in the increased learning of the Word of God from a Pastor-Teacher who teaches the Word of God.

Peter words it just a little different:

2 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ **but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**

Christians, (*the body of Christ*) across the board do not want to go to a church where the Word of God is taught verse-by-verse. They desire sermons that make them feel good. Sermons that cater to their individual problems.

Friends, we have just 3 services a week, to worship in the study of the Word of God to increase in the knowledge God the Father and of JESUS CHRIST.

I wish we had some 6 services...Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and three on Sunday, but that just is not going to happen – anyway, not before the election in November!

It is so difficult to excite more of you to come on these three services. I do not know why!

But it is my responsibility to be ready ‘in season’ when more come and ‘out of season’ when few come.

But all through our studies

—Daniel, —Matthew, —1 and 2 Thessalonians and —1 Corinthians and —Isaiah 53, we see over and over the encouragement to continue to grow in the **Knowledge** of the Word of God. Rather than a doctrine on increasing in the **Knowledge** of God and of JESUS CHRIST let us just see if a few passages will wake some of you up.

1....

Let us start with Knowledge that everyone of you have and a knowledge that is increasing by natural process of living.

Genesis 2:9

⁹ **Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.**

You are increasing in this knowledge all the time in the system of the world. You have to make an effort to increase in the Knowledge of God and of JESUS CHRIST.

First, you have to desire to increase in your Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST, then you have to get to where this knowledge is taught, then you have to (by Faith) be in the power of the Holy Spirit, so He will teach you more and more about JESUS CHRIST and God the Father.

2....

God is the God of Knowledge, so if you are increasing in your knowing of God you are increasing in Knowledge.

1 Samuel 2:3

³ **“Boast no more so very proudly, Do not let arrogance come out of your mouth; For the LORD is a God of knowledge, And with Him actions are weighed.**

Do you get it?

God weighs or judges every action we undertake.

Action to come to church for the increase in Knowledge or the action to do something else

Another passage on God as the God of Knowledge:

Job 37:16

¹⁶ **“Do you know about the layers of the thick clouds, The wonders of one perfect in knowledge**

People when you learn about God, you are learning perfect Knowledge. Think about the books we read, the videos we watch to increase our learning and yet right here is Knowledge of God, and that is perfect Knowledge.

3....

In effect what are you saying when you choose not to come to worship in His Word?

For the answer we go to the wisdom of Job.

Job 21:14

¹⁴ **“They say to God, ‘Depart from us! We do not even desire the knowledge of Your ways.**

I have something more important than to learn of your Knowledge.

4...

The book of Proverbs is filled with words on Knowledge.

Let us just read through some of these rich verses from

Proverbs 1:7

⁷ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; Fools despise wisdom and instruction**

Proverbs 1:29

²⁹ **Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD.**

I don't believe that even one of you hates Knowledge of God or of JESUS CHRIST. I just think sometimes, other things are more important than coming to church to study the Word of God.

Proverbs 9:10

¹⁰ **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.**

Are you experiencing SAD (Stress, Anxiety, Depression)?

Trying to understand it?

Well, stop trying to understand SAD (Stress, Anxiety, Depression) and concentrate on growing in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST and of God the Father and that Knowledge will give you understanding of circumstances in life.

Proverbs 15:14

¹⁴ **The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, (Where it can be found—in the Word of God) But the mouth of fools feeds on folly. (Professing to be wise they became fools—Romans 1:22)**

Proverbs 18:15

¹⁵ **The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (faith comes by hearing of the Word of God).**

Proverbs 20:15

¹⁵ **There is gold, and an abundance of jewels; But the lips of knowledge are a more precious thing.**

Do you desire the more precious things of life?

Proverbs 24:5

⁵ **A wise man is strong, And a man of knowledge increases power.**

You lose physical strength as you grow older but you can actually increase your power as you grow older by increasing in the Knowledge of God and of JESUS CHRIST.

5....

Not only can you Love as JESUS CHRIST loved (fulfill the New Commandment of John 13:34-35) but you can actually be like the humanity of JESUS CHRIST.

Isaiah 11:2

² **The Spirit of the LORD** (The same Holy Spirit that is in you) **will rest on Him,** (Coming Messiah, Jesus Christ)
The spirit of wisdom and understanding, (The Holy Spirit is the teacher of Knowledge of God and of JESUS CHRIST.)
The spirit of counsel (what to do) **and strength,** (the strength to do it) **The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.**
(This same Spirit is in you!)

6....

Yes the world is filled with fear, calamity, uncertainty, etc., but you can have powerful Inner Strength.

Isaiah 33:6

⁶ **And He will be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge; The fear of the LORD is his treasure.** (If you desire stability in an unstable world...here it is Knowledge of the Lord and of God the Father.)

7....

It was Knowledge of the Plan of God that gave Jesus the courage to undergo the sufferings of the cross, of enduring Spiritual Death from God the Father.

Isaiah 53:11

¹¹ **As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and be satisfied*;** (a picture of JESUS CHRIST in the Garden of Gethsemane where He sweat blood. And what sustained Him?) **By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many,** (Sufferings on the cross of Isaiah 53) **As He will bear their iniquities.** (Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted.)

Ok, what is the point here?

JESUS CHRIST was going through a horrible painful ordeal...bearing the judgment of the sins of the world, but by His knowing the Father and the Father's Plan He was able to endure the suffering of the cross.

So, in your life you may have to go through some very difficult suffering—physical, mental, emotional, family, etc. You can be stabilized if you know and concentrate on God the Father and JESUS CHRIST instead of on your difficulties.

Isaiah 27:3-4

Thou will keep him in perfect peace, who mind is stayed on Him (And to keep your mind stayed on Him you have to know Him and the way to know Him is to continually increase in the Knowledge of God.)

8...

**What is wrong in America today?
What is wrong morally in America?
What is wrong Spiritually in America?**

Hosea 4:1

¹ **Listen to the word of the LORD, O sons of Israel, (and by application to us today) For the LORD has a case against the inhabitants of the land, (Why?) Because there is no faithfulness or kindness Or knowledge of God in the land.**

**How about in you?
Are you increasing in the Knowledge of God?**

Hosea 4:6

⁶ **My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being My priest. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.**

This is an alarming verse!

Here God will destroy a nation of people for lack of knowledge, well, look at America today---The foundation upon which this nation was built is being destroyed—for lack of Knowledge,

not political knowledge, but Spiritual, lack of Knowledge of the Word of God, lack of Knowledge of God, of JESUS CHRIST, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Have you asked yourself why America
is in the political mess it is in?
Why we are such an immoral nation?**

Well, consider America's spiritual condition.

Consider the unbelievable lack of desire to learn more of the Knowledge of God. Why so few Pastor-Teachers are teaching verse-by-verse of the Word of God?

Consider the warnings given in Hosea 4:1 and 6.

And in case someone desires to point out the number of churches in this country and TV religious programs, take a look at **Hosea 6:6**

⁶ **For I delight in loyalty**
(To God, To His Word, To His Son, To His Holy Spirit)
rather than sacrifice, (rituals, religiosity)
And in the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.)

All through His Word, God states His desire that we have knowledge of Him, by and through the continual study of His Word. This is why Paul prays that these believers will continue to grow in the Knowledge of God.

9...

What is amazing is that so few even understand that they have little Knowledge of sin and no Knowledge of God.

1 Corinthians 15:34

³⁴ **Become sober-minded as you ought,** (Wrong, The King James has it right:) **awake to righteousness and stop sinning; for some have no knowledge of God. I speak *this* to your shame.** (Is not this the shame of America?)

The Anti-God leaders have taken the 10 Commandments out of education, Jurisprudence and public places and again our young people have little understanding of sin:

Romans 3:20

²⁰ **because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law *comes* the knowledge of sin.** (And today in this great country the Judicial system is dominant and it has little understanding of sin and no knowledge of God and, therefore, it remove God's Law—[The Ten Commandments].)

And in so doing, you remove from the young people, knowledge of sin. And I doubt that very few leaders in this country can define righteousness and this includes Church leaders.

10...

Where do we find the Knowledge of God?

2 Corinthians 4: 6

⁶ **For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.**

So if you desire to increase in the Knowledge of God, you must

increase in the Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST. 2 Peter 3:18.

11...

Another passage that describes America today is:

2 Timothy 3:7

⁷ **always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.** (Truth about the True God, about His Son Jesus Christ, about the Holy Spirit and about the gospel.)

12...

You desire, inner peace in your soul, in a time when there is no peace?

2 Peter 1:2

² **Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; (Therefore Paul's prayer...) **that you increase in the Knowledge of God.****

13...

We have studied the petition of bearing fruit in every good work but there is one other area even more important for bearing fruit.

2 Peter 1:8

⁸ **For if these *qualities* are yours (maybe they are and maybe they are not) and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

This brings us to our study in Colossians.

Colossians 1:9-10

⁹ **For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that (1st petition) you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**

¹⁰ (2nd petition) **so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,**
(3rd petition) **to please *Him* in all respects,**
(4th petition) **bearing fruit in every good work and**
(5th petition) **increasing in the knowledge of God;**

How important is the petition:

You may be filled with the Knowledge of His will?

Look at Isaiah 53: which is devoted to the suffering of JESUS CHRIST in payment of our debt of sins.

Isaiah 53:8

⁸ **By oppression (from man) and judgment (from God) He (JESUS CHRIST the suffering Servant) was taken away; from life to death And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due?* Who considered (The Hebrew construction shows they should have considered this. This was knowable to them, but...**

they did not have) **Knowledge of the Will of God** (so they experienced all kinds of thoughts and emotions. From (Stress, Anxiety, Depression, to fear and uncertainty,) and from the religious crowd a sick joy, from the Romans a sense of power and authority. And from His own disciples, family, fear, uncertainty, undue sorrow, etc.

Why?

Because they did not have Knowledge of the Will of God.

So many people in America today are going through all kinds of stress, and depression... Why? They do not know the Will of God.

And yes you can know the Will of God.

This is why Paul prays this petition for these believers... **that you be filled with the Knowledge of His will.**

And from these people I hear such things as I don't need to study prophecy! Oh yes you do!

If you desire to be filled with the Knowledge of His will.

I love the verse of Revelation 3:1

³ **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

No one in the generation of the crucifixion of JESUS CHRIST understood the Will of God.

But people we can.

And we should be able to understand the will of God in today's world and in our own personal world.

Next Sunday we will move to verse 11 and the 6th petition in Paul's prayer Colossians 1:11

¹¹ **strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, (I will tell you right up front, this is talking about the Holy Spirit.) for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously**

Colossians 1:9-10

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;**

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?

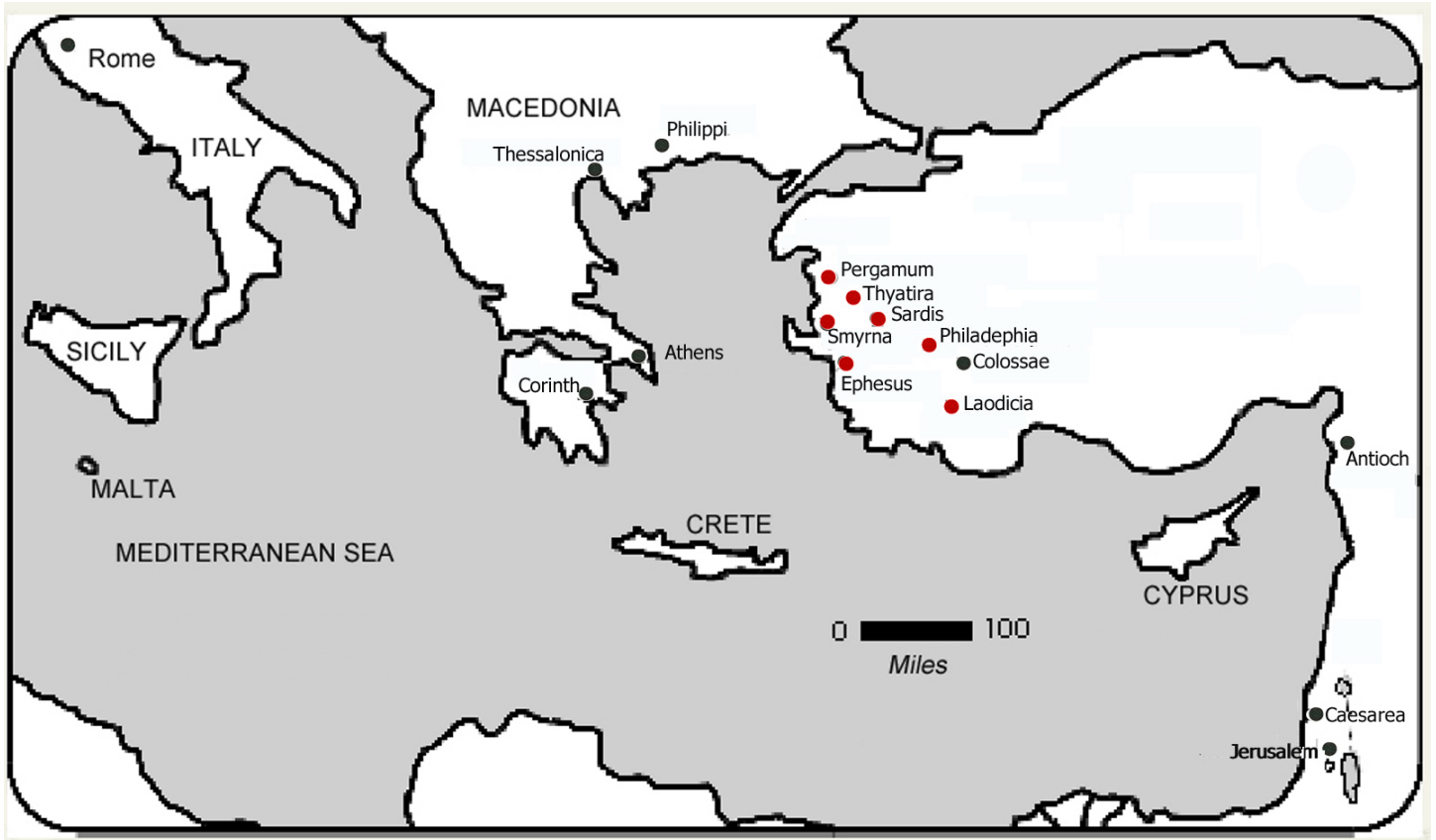
Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?

Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?

Is the Word 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.



**Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last. "**



ALL BECAUSE OF GOD'S AMAZING GRACE

Words and Music by
STEPHEN R. ADAMS

INTRO.

1. A - maz - ing
2. Thro' dis - ap -
3. Then with the

C7 F Fm D C E7/B Am Am7

grace! Oh, how sweet the sound That saved a poor sin - ner like
point - ment and dan - ger, too, Thro' la - bors and sor - rows we've
ran - somed a - round God's throne We'll praise our Re - deem - er and

D7 G7 Dm7/G C G7 C7 F

me! _____ Though once I was lost, _____ Yet now _____ I'm
come! _____ But God's grace has guid - ed safe - ly
King! _____ We'll tell how His mer - cy for sin did a -

F#dim C/C C D7/A G7 C

found, Tho' I was blind - ed _____ now _____ I see! _____
through; And it will sure - ly _____ lead _____ us home! _____
tone, Thro' count - less a - ges this song _____ we'll sing! _____

CHORUS

G7 C Dm7 C7/E F C G

(1-2) And it's all _____ be - cause of God's a - maz - ing grace! _____
 (3) "It was all _____ be - cause of God's a - maz - ing grace! _____

C Am Am7 D7 Dm7/G

_____ Be - cause on Cal-v'ry's moun-tain He took my place! _____
 _____ Be - cause on Cal-v'ry's moun-tain He took my place!" _____

G7 G C Gm7(sus) C7 F

_____ And some-day, some glo-ri-ous morn-ing I shall see Him face to face, All be -
 _____ Oh! some-day, some glo-ri-ous morn-ing I shall see Him face to face, All be -

1-2 C F G6 G7 C D.S. 3 C rit. F C/G G7 C Fine

_____ cause of God's a - maz - ing grace! _____ cause of God's a - maz - ing grace! _____

Amazing grace__ O how sweet__ the sound,
That saved__ a poor sinner like me!
Though once I was lost_, yet now-I am found,
Though I was blinded__, now I see!

**And it's all because of God's amazing grace!
Because on Calvary's Mountain he took my place!
And someday, some glorious morning,
I shall see him face to face,
All because of God's amazing grace.**

Through disappointment through danger, too,
Through la__ bors and sorrows we've come!
But God's grace has gui__ded safe__ly through,
And it will sure__ly Lead_____ us home!

Then with the ran__somed around God's throne,
We-will praise__ our Redeemer and King!
We -will tell how his mer__cy for sin did a-tone;
Through-count-less ages__ this-song we'll sing;