

## Spiritual Understanding

Colossians 1:9-18

Intro: Turning the Bible into prayer (R.M. McCloskey, J. Hudson Taylor). There is no more obvious way to do this than to pray the prayers of Scripture because in these we come face to face with the real issues of the Christian life.

Several of the times the word spiritual is used in the Bible it is used of knowing the Word itself. This is the reason for being at Multnomah, and this should be the lifelong desire and purpose of every child of God -- to know the Word.

How does Paul pray?

- I. The main burden on his heart (v. 9): that they might be filled with the knowledge of the will of God, but in a special way: "in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Cf Prov. 4:7.

Let us be sure we understand  
the words which Paul uses.

A. "Knowledge" - the knowledge  
which really grasps or penetrates  
into a subject so as to see  
its practical significance as  
is implied in the word

B. "Wisdom".

C. "Understanding" is a word  
which speaks of a junction  
of streams, or it speaks of  
the ability to see the relationship  
which various truths have  
to each other.

Heresy is usually the result  
of either an over-emphasis of  
truth, or an under-emphasis  
of truth, or both.

So that Paul is telling the  
Colossians & telling us that  
the truth of the Word is the  
only foundation upon which  
a Christian's life can be  
established.

D. "Spiritual" - I have purposely  
left this word to the last  
because of its importance.  
Spiritual understanding is  
understanding imparted by the  
Holy Spirit. He is the Teacher.

of the Word, and the simple  
truths of the Word will never  
be separated apart from the  
teaching ministry of the Holy  
Spirit.

See Prof Maslow in UBC on  
Intellectualism by Boileau.  
See also Gen. 14:16; 15:12, 21;  
16:11-15.

Our New Nature the New Life.  
David Gutmann made the point  
that affected obey their cause  
by ministering power.

### III.

The results of such an understanding  
of the Word. See our five-thousand  
and mention.

- A. See work: This is a NT word  
which includes the whole life  
of the Christian but often left.  
How is a Christian to walk?  
Work of the Lord, performing  
him in all things -
- B. The work: Our work is based  
upon our walk, and you must  
keep it in that order.

But how can you be fruitful  
in serving God's work? Perhaps  
it is as follows. Sometimes God works  
through man; sometimes in man; and  
sometimes even a small part in him.

by us, but it is fruitful if it fulfills His will. The Bible is the final authority on how to serve God.

C. Knowing God. How much of an opportunity there is to know God in an ever-increasing way while walking with Him and working with Him.

Cf. Phil. 3:10. The knowledge of God is ineffable. This is the same word, as in v. 9,<sup>(in v. 10, Col 1)</sup> a knowledge which penetrates and has practical results. We manifest how much we know of God by our walk and our work.

Cf. the revelation of God to Abraham.

The best place to come to know God is in His Word.

D. Strengthened. Oh, how we need this and how the Word does strengthen. See David's testimony in Psalm 138:1-3 where he says that God "strengthened me with strength in my soul". Oh, that is where we need it.

E. Giving thanks unto the Father

--- PRAISE. For what?

1. His provision. Don't ever get complacent,

2. His Person. Are you not thankful that He

3. His place - as Head <sup>is the head of</sup> the church of

Concl: Oh, what prospects there are  
for limitless blessing in  
the life of a child of God!  
But it all goes back to and  
is dependent upon i. g -  
our lives, the Word of God,  
and the Holy Spirit.

Before every class, before  
every study hour, let there  
be an expression from your  
heart of your dependence upon  
the Holy Spirit to guide you  
into the Word, and the  
prospects for this year will be  
limitless.