



PART 3: GOD MAKES US GROW

Sermon Notes

Text: Colossians 1:9-14

Intro:

Colossians 1:9-14

We should never be in a place where our relationship with God is “good enough”.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 - God makes us grow.

Spiritual growth does not happen apart from prayer.

“What is worked for must first be prayed for.” - N.T. Wright

Paul prayed that the Colossians would grow deeper in:

1. The Knowledge of God

You cannot know someone without first knowing about them.

The knowledge of God is not a purely intellectual pursuit but also a relational one.

“All theology is for doxology” - Dr. Charles Coats

2. Holiness

Understanding the nature and will of God leads naturally to good works. If you know what and why God expects us to live holy lives it is much easier.

Works are not behaviour modification. They are an outward expression of a transformed life.

3. Spiritual Power

Spiritual power is tied to sufferings.

You are God’s expression of mercy to a hurting world.

As Christians our greatest witness is not our victories but how well we suffer.

Conclusion:

All of this matters because we are brought into a new exodus. From darkness to light; from death to life.

Nothing is separating us from God, there is forgiveness of sins.

Don’t settle for “good enough”.

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. What area of your life are you a perfectionist? In what area do you have a “good enough” attitude? Do you notice a difference in the amount of time and effort you spend in each of these areas?

Study & Discussion:

1. Read Colossians 1:9-14. Is there anything that stands out to you? Does it remind you of anything you learned from the sermon? How do the three things Paul prayed for (knowledge, holiness and spiritual power) work together to make a mature Christian?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 in light of Paul’s prayer in Colossians 1:9-14. How do you, personally, pray? Why do you pray? Do you ever think of prayer as spiritual formation? Do you think that prayer makes us more aware of spiritual realities?
3. Read Philippians 3:10 in light of Paul’s prayer for endurance and patience. What does it mean to share in the power of the resurrection? The fellowship of his sufferings? Can you have one without the other? How does this change your view of God’s mercy?

Application:

1. Where in your relationship with God do you need to grow? What holds you back from going deeper?

Prayer:

1. Pray for each other that you would grow in the knowledge of him, in good works and spiritual power.
2. Other Requests
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