

Col.1:9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

1:10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

1:11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

1:12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

1:13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

1:14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

【From Today's Sermon】

Last week we learned that God's grace and love are powerful forces that transform people into loving beings the moment they truly comprehend them, bearing fruit throughout the world.

This love is expressed as the love poured out without distinction upon all the saints. News of this reached Paul in prison, and he rejoiced, saying, “You have made known to us the love you have for one another through the Holy Spirit.”

Hearing this, Paul prayed further:

“That you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

Paul states he never ceases praying this prayer.

Knowledge of God's will being fulfilled, all spiritual wisdom and understanding. This is what we too desire to pursue. Our

What is the foundation upon which all our desires and joys are built? Of course, each of us has personal joys and plans, and these are also things God desires. When we entrust all our thoughts to God at once, placing all our deeds and actions upon the foundation of what God desires and delights in, and wait expectantly, good works are born, bearing good fruit. Through this practice, our knowledge of God continually increases.

This is possible because we have been forgiven of our sins and made children of light.

Good morning, everyone. I was surprised to hear that yesterday saw temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius in some places, even though September begins tomorrow. I expect this week will also

bring hot days, so please take care of your health and stay well.

Now, we have been studying Colossians since last week. The news from the church in Colossae that brought joy to Paul in prison was that “we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints.”

1:5 This love is based on the hope reserved for you in heaven, of which you have already heard in the word of the truth of the gospel.

1:6 And this gospel is bearing fruit and growing everywhere, just as it is among you, since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.

Galatians 5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

Because of this love of Christ, we fix our eyes on God's love—the love that sacrificed the very life of His precious Son for our redemption. We must constantly examine whether our thoughts, considerations, and actions are grounded in this love of Jesus Christ. We are forgiven and kept alive by the gospel, strengthened and protected by God's power and wisdom, filled with abundant hope. Let us turn our attention to the continuation of Paul's prayer offered for the perfection of the faith of the Colossian church.

1:9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

1:10 so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

This prayer of Paul's seems difficult for us to uphold and practice at first glance.

“To know God's will deeply with all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to live a life pleasing to the Lord, to truly delight Him, to bear fruit in every good work, and to grow in the knowledge of God.”

It is a life that continually ascends higher and higher. Yet, regarding the life described as “with all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to know God's will deeply, to live a life pleasing to the Lord, and to truly delight the Lord,” I feel a sense of dread when I consider what score we might receive if the Lord were to grade our lives.

However, it seems that attaining this life is not something achieved by our own efforts. Here it says “with all spiritual wisdom and understanding,” and there are verses that can be understood to mean

that the Holy Spirit Himself becomes our understanding.

We are born to live according to the fleshly nature, and without the Holy Spirit being given to us, could we not understand spiritual things?

Galatians 5:5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we have the hope of being justified.

5:6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

5:7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

5:8 Such persuasion does not come from the one who called you.

5:9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.

5:10 I have full confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view than mine. But whoever is causing you to waver will be judged.

5:11 Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.

5:12 It would be better for those who are unsettling you to be castrated.

5:13 Brothers and sisters, you were called to be free. But do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love.

5:14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

5:15 But take care, lest by any means, while you are biting and devouring one another, you are destroyed by one another.

5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, so that you cannot do the things you want to do.

5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

5:19 The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery,

5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions,

5:21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

5:23 gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Let us wait for the work of the One who will perfect us through the Holy Spirit, with thanksgiving,

hope, and faith.

1:9 For this reason, ever since we heard about you, we have not ceased to pray for you, that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

1:10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Let us also consider other passages from Scripture.

Deuteronomy 30:11 The commandment I am giving you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it too far away.

30:12 It is not in heaven, so that you have to ask, “Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and obey it?”

30:13 Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you should say, ‘Who will cross the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’

30:14 No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so that you may obey it.

Ezekiel 36:23 I will show my holiness among the nations, in the midst of which you have defiled me, when I show my holiness before their eyes. Then the nations will know that I am the Lord, declares the Sovereign Lord.

36:24 I will bring you out from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land.

36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

36:27 I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

36:28 You will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

36:29 I will save you from all your uncleanness, and I will call for the grain and multiply it, and I will not bring famine upon you.

36:30 I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will never again suffer the disgrace of famine among the nations.

36:31 Then you will remember your evil deeds and your wicked practices, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices.

Galatians 6:14 But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For through the cross, the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

6:15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

5:18 But all this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

5:19 That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

1:9 For this reason, ever since we heard about you, we have not ceased to pray for you, that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

1:10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Guided by the Holy Spirit, we come to know God's will deeply. This means knowing God's love more deeply. The more we understand the love God expressed through Jesus' sacrifice, the more God's love is written on the tablets of our hearts, the more we desire to share that love and testify to it through our concrete actions. And we can see the natural progression that this increasingly adds to our knowledge of God. To know God's love, to be protected and guided by that love, to be filled with it and to desire and act accordingly—if we have a relationship of faith with Jesus, this should not be particularly difficult.

2 Corinthians 3:2 You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, known and read by all.

3:3 You clearly show that you are a letter from Christ, delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

3:4 Such confidence we have through Christ toward God.

1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not made perfect in love.

4:19 We love because he first loved us.

4:20 Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

4:21 And we love because we know that love comes from God. We all love because we have been loved by God.

1:11 And we pray that you may be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience,

1:12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. “We give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

Yet even as we are kept by the Lord in the light and serve Him, there are times when we must endure hardship. But this too is a training in faith for us. Even as we face suffering, we can still “give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

1:13 God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son.

1:14 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

We were once subjected to the power of darkness, its authority and dominion, forced to obey, with no escape or path to freedom. But He has redeemed us from sin and placed us under the rule of His beloved Son. We have received forgiveness of sins. We no longer tremble in fear before judgment. We do not tremble in fear that our standing will be steadily diminished. We are children of light, living under the rule of the forgiving, loving Son. By the Holy Spirit, we have received the knowledge of love, enabling us to discern His will, perform good works, and bear fruit. Even when we fail, forgiveness is there, and we are empowered to press onward.

1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

2:25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

◇Prayer: **Heavenly Father God, we thank You for today's worship.**

Thank You for the words of Deuteronomy 30:5-7: “This commandment is not too difficult for you, nor is it beyond your reach... The word is very near you, it is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may obey it.” We thank You that we are now forgiven of our sins, placed under the rule of Your beloved Son Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit, and enabled to know and do Your will. Please lead all those who suffer into Your salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us. We pray in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.