

Are You Doing God's Will Part 4

“1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; 6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: 7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; 8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit. 9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreproveable in his sight: 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; 24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: 25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; 26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” (Colossians 1:1-29 KJV)

It is so important to understand the context of life that God is calling you to live and to fit yourself in it. There is always a plan of God and a certain scenario of life that God had prepared for each and every one of us to follow. Notice that it may take time until people will grasp this concept and the plan of God that He had for them. Thanks be to God who had

revealed to us that, but not everyone around us, the plan of God had been revealed to him or to her.

** Sure, sooner or later God will reveal His plan to each and every individual on earth as he reach the age of understanding toward accountability. * The next struggle after God had revealed His plan, the people may neglect, put aside, or fight against what God had ordained for them. * And they will continue to be in struggle in their life being living against His will until they will surrender and be willing to walk with God. * And after the surrendering to God then the next battle is to persevere with God to endure suffering until they are done with God's plan and will.*

“1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother:” (Colossians 1:1 KJV) Paul is an apostle by the will of God in order to do the will of God. With him Timotheus who was knitted with Paul by the will of God toward the teaching and the way of life that God had revealed through the Scripture to His people who are willing to follow and abide in God's ways. *As Timotheus agreed with the teaching of Paul and lived in God's will, we too are called to agree with the teaching of the Bible and live in His will.*

“2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Colossians 1:2 KJV) The letter to the Colossians was directed to the saints, the holy people who hate sin and to the faithful among them; those who are grateful and responding favourably to the grace and the peace of God that He had lavished on them. *God wants from us as a church, and from each and every member to live holy and to be faithful to the calling of God in our lives.*

“3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you:” (Colossians 1:3 KJV) As they were introduced to Paul by Epaphras, he knew that God is the one who sent this people to him and he thanked God for this opportunity of service and he started to pray for them. *In the same way as we desiring to live God's will we should be aware that whatever people God would be bringing in the mid of us is an opportunity for us to serve Him by serving them.* Paul and Timotheus together gave thanks to God and prayed for the Colossians. *We as church with the committed workers we need to receive those whom the Lord is sending to us and we pray for them.*

“4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, 5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel.” (Colossians 1:4-5 KJV) Paul and Timotheus gave thanks for the Colossians when they heard about their faith and their love to the saints and their hope in the inheritance that they have in Heaven. Paul and Timotheus sure they heard other things about the Colossians that it needs correction but they gave thanks to God and in their mind they put their commitment to reach out these people and help them to follow God. *So for every people God is sending there are good things in them that we need to give thanks and bad things that we need to discover to correct in them.*

“6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:” (Colossians 1:6 KJV) The Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached to the whole world and brought forth fruit to whatever people it reached. It produced fruit in the life of the Colossians since the day it is

preached and made them know the grace of God in truth. *We need to do God's will by continually preaching the gospel to the lost because it will reproduce the fruit in the form of new believers in Christ. Every one of us needs to be a fruitful disciple and bring new people to Christ.*

"7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ:" (Colossians 1:7 KJV) The meaning of *Epaphras* is lovely. And really we need to be lovely by bringing the good news to the people around us and around the world. We will be in doing that dear fellow servants with Paul and in partnership with him in fulfilling the apostolic ministry of God.

"8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit:" (Colossians 1:8 KJV) Epaphras the pastor over the Colossians church came and reported to Paul all the details of the Colossians brethren; their love to the saints and the rest of their good things that they were doing for the Lord and their errors and the things they need to be corrected for. Epaphras came to Paul who was an apostle by the will of God asking him help and council how to deal with the teaching errors that he was encountering in the life of the Colossians. Epaphras was acting like the judges that Moses trained and appointed, ***"26 And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves."*** (Exodus 18:26 KJV) Epaphras was honest person and he was transparent. He reported to Paul all the critical events in the church of the Colossians. He even reported to him about Archippus and his ministry and that is why Paul included him in his letter and send admonishment to him, ***"17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it."*** (Colossians 4:17 KJV) Apostle Paul further spoke about Epaphras, ***"12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."*** (Colossians 4:12 KJV) Epaphras was praying for the people in Colossians church, who were his church members, to stand perfectly in all the will of God. Further Paul spoke about him that he was a faithful worker, working with zeal toward his flock and for the church in Laodicea and in Hierapolis ***"13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis."*** (Colossians 4: 13 KJV)

"9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" (Colossians 1:9 KJV) When Paul and Timotheus heard about the Colossians they did not stop praying for them and they prayed for them and desired for them to be filled with the knowledge of the will of God. *We need to pray for the people under our care to be filled with wisdom and with the knowledge of His will.*

"10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;" (Colossians 1:10 KJV) *We need to know God's will and live it and we need to pray for the people under our care and those whom we are reaching out to know God's will and live it.*

The manifestation of knowing God's will and living it are the following:

A. *Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing: Being good example and of good testimony to others.*

B. *Being fruitful in every good work: Bearing fruit in all seasons and in whatever thing we put our hands on.*

C. *increasing in the knowledge of God: Always persevering to know God better and to walk closer to Him.*

"11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;" (Colossians 1:11 KJV)

D. *Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power: In living God's will we will be strengthened and whatever work we do we do it by His mighty power that raised Jesus from the death and seated Him at the right hand of the throne of grace.*

E. *Patience and longsuffering with joyfulness: Accepting trials and longsuffering as ambient for fruitful living and with all joyfulness.*

"12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:" (Colossians 1:12 KJV)

F. *Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: We will be always thankful and grateful as we are getting involved in doing the whole will of God, who have kept for us inheritance in Heaven. Which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; God made us qualified and meet to share in the inheritance of the saints in Heaven. Therefore we need to do our part and live in the will of God.*

"13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" (Colossians 1:12 KJV) *We are reminded here for what we need to live in the will of God. We got saved and delivered from the power of darkness and got into the kingdom of Christ, and for this reason we need to continue to walk in the plan of Him to achieve His will and to be fruitful.*

"14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:" (Colossians 1:14 KJV) We are forgiven from our sins by the blood of Jesus, therefore we need to continue in the attitude of repentance so Christ sacrifice will be the way for our redemption. We need to appreciate and live in awe of what Christ did for us to save us from our sins.

"15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:" (Colossians 1:15 KJV) Jesus is God the Son, who came to the earth to make us know God the Father. He came and died for our sins. He raised from the death. He is the first fruit of the resurrection.

"16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:" (Colossians 1:16 KJV) All what is around us is created by Him and is created for His purpose. We will not be able to overcome forces, powers, dominions, and principalities unless we will be walking in accordance to His will.

"17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." (Colossians 1:17 KJV) He is before all and above all and all things consist by Him. Therefore it is so mandatory to conform

to His will so we can go through life from station to station. We will be able to coop with the various issues of life if we keep ourselves in harmony with His will.

“18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.” (Colossians 1:18 KJV) Christ is the head of the church and He first appointed apostles who started the apostolic ministry, to lay the foundation of the church, and to lead and to guide the church into the whole will of God. *That is why we need to be inside the church and in harmony with the church as the church persevere in doing God’s will.* He is from the beginning, He is the first one who raised from the dead and He is the head of the church and He wants us to be part of His church.

“19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;” (Colossians 1:19 KJV) There were some error in the mind of Colossians who received some false teaching of Christ that needed to be corrected and Paul was doing that. He expounded to them deeply about Christ and he told them, ***“in him should all fulness dwell.”*** For there is no other fullness in any other things or in any other person in this world except in Christ Jesus our Lord.

“20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” (Colossians 1:20 KJV) Christ introduced peace by the shedding of His blood on the cross and He brought the reconciliation between God the Father and with man through Jesus’ blood that was shed on the cross. *We really need to understand that Christ died on the cross and we need to appreciate what the impact of that in our lives in going back to God the Father and to be part of His church.*

“21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled:” (Colossians 1:21 KJV) We were enemies before and now we are reconciled to God by the blood of Jesus and we got saved. Therefore we need to be aware about the false teaching and the errors of the false teachers that will try to separate us from Christ.

“22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprougeable in his sight:” (Colossians 1:22 KJV) The letter of Paul to the church explained that the plan of God is not only we got saved but to present us holy and without blame in His sight. That God would see us without defect justified before Him by the blood of Jesus. And in that the letter had put conditions as we can read here:

“23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister:” (Colossians 1:23 KJV) * *We need to continue to live in obedient faith and abiding with His will and plan.* * *Therefore we really need to live away from sin and worldliness in order to be without blame, spot or blemish before Him.* The meaning of, ***“and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel,”*** is not to be away from the standard of holiness that the Gospel of Christ had announced to us when we heard and believed, ***“and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven;”*** *everywhere Christ is preached then holiness is preached, for holiness is in the center of the gospel of Jesus.* ***“Whereof I Paul am made a minister,”*** Here Paul introduced himself to them. Paul first introduced God’s plan for them then he introduced Christ, then he introduced the

church through Christ being the head of the church, and there he made importance that we need to live and be part of the church where we need to live and abide while we are on earth, Christ being the head of the church, and then he introduced himself as minister and servant for Christ and apostle for Him to laid the foundation of the church, whom Christ had placed in the church to serve the church, and with this they will be attentive to listen to Paul as instrument that God would use to introduce His will, His Word, His teaching and His good plan for them.

“24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body’s sake, which is the church:” (Colossians 1:24 KJV) Paul suffered and rejoiced in his suffering for the church being the body of Christ; Paul also informed them that he is suffering for them. He suffered in his firm stand in the Word of God that he was preaching to the people. If Apostle Paul did not stand firm then the letter to the Colossians will not come true. Paul was suffering in preaching the gospel and his suffering was less of what Christ suffered for the church. But he was willing to fill up of what he is lacking in comparison for Christ suffering for the sake of the church. *We need to rejoice in suffering and we need to be ready even to suffer more in our service and ministry for the sake of God’s church.*

“25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;” (Colossians 1:25 KJV) Paul declared again to them that he was made a minister according to God’s will for their sake to serve them and he is willing to endeavor in that in order to fulfill God’s Word. So he was obliging them to obey and abide with God’s Word and God’s message that Christ is sending through Paul to the church.

“26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:” (Colossians 1:26 KJV) It is a mysterious thing what is God is doing in reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus using ministers and apostles to lay the foundation of His church. This is mystery and God is revealing that to His saints. Mystery is something hidden and beyond man’s mind, imagination or explanation. Life with the various issues around us is mystery. But God had revealed the mystery of life to the saints. So the church has explanation of the mystery and can help the people and explain to them the events of life and how to interact with the issues of life and take right decisions in accordance to God’s will.

“27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:” (Colossians 1:27 KJV) Through the saints God is preaching the gospel and reaching the gentiles and making known to them the riches of His glory, that when Christ preached the gentile will have hope in God. When the Word of God expound then people will be aware of their lives and what God wants them to do.

Christ in you, the hope of glory: When Christ is living in us and is manifested through our lives to others then others would know Christ through our lives and they will have the hope as we have.

“28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:” (Colossians 1:28 KJV) We need to preach the gospel and that is the will of God. When we preach we need to warn every man to repent of his or her sin, and we need to teach what in accord with the sound doctrine, and do our best to teach and to disciple, and to present everyone perfect in Christ. Paul told the church ***“we***

preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus;” what Paul was saying to them that he will get involved in the personal life of each and every member of the church, for he is going to teach them and direct them to the whole will of God.

“29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.” (Colossians 1:29 KJV) Paul was telling them that he is laboring and striving with all God’s energy and might, that is working in Him to serve the church and to present every member perfect in Christ. We also the same now we need to rely on the strength and the power of God that He will give to us to do His work to help others, teaching them, counseling them, that we may present every one perfect in Christ.

My dear and beloved: Correction and admonishment is needed in every one life. The church is the ambient for God to do these changes in our lives. God placed ministers anointed in His church to train the saints, ***“Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.”*** God called every one of us to be perfected in Christ and be willing to go forward to reach the lost. Let us be honest to report honestly all the problems that we have in our lives and in our church to the leaders that God had placed over us to guide us. Let us commit ourselves in this apostolic ministry, to ***“preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.”***

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the death to give me eternal life. Lord I thank you for your word that makes me understand deeply the importance of your church in my life.

Let us confess our sins and renounce them _____.

Let us confess and renounce and repent of all what we are doing according to our will and not according to the will of God _____.

Lord I commit myself to serve you as minister in your church to preach and warn and to present everyone you had placed under my care to be perfect in Christ. Lord sustain me with your power and energy, Lord protect me and provide for me to continue to serve you.

Lord I pray for my brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to serve you and live according to your will that they will reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, peace, joy, long suffering, gentleness, kindness, faith and humility, that the characters of Christ will be manifested in their lives. Lord I pray for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit that they need to evangelize and teach and bring people to you and help them to know your will and to walk in your will.

Lord bless your church and make your church grow. Lord I pray for more evangelism and more people will be reached out for Christ. Lord I pray for more Bible studies to be opened and more congregations to be planted. Lord those who are obedient anoint them with the Holy Spirit and use them to reach the lost and to bring the fruit that you desire to see in the life of your church. Lord help us and protect us as we persevere in serving you. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let you hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel

pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Are You Doing God’s Will Part 4. Colossians 1:1-29. Exodus 18:26. Colossians 4:17, 12.

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