

The Sound of *Many Waters*

Many Waters is a weekly article written by Ron Cipic, lead pastor of Grand River Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. To comment or ask a question about this piece, write to Pastor Ron at pastors@grandriverchurch.org. Related Scripture verses for further study are cited at the end of this piece.

The Person Driven Life

Hidden in his salutation to the Colossians is one of Paul's great apostolic prayers for the church past and present. Paul wrote: *"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, so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to please Him in all respects..."* Paul prayed this way only because the Spirit of God had inspired him to do so. Paul wasn't asking for something that God wasn't willing to give. God wants His will to be known. In fact, He has gone to great lengths to reveal it.

So what is God's will here? Later in his letter to the Colossians, Paul answered this question: "God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." God's will was and is to make known the *"mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to the saints..."* Knowing this mystery is not the privilege of the spiritually elite.

All saints are to know with all wisdom and understanding that Christ lives in them. After all, this fact and this fact alone makes them Christians. They are not to imitate Christ based on some Bible stories they've read or heard. They are filled with the knowledge that Christ Himself lives in them and that the same Christ who walked the earth two thousand years ago walks the

earth in them today. Knowing this, they can act and speak according to their belief. Their question will not be: "What would Jesus do if He were here?" Rather, they will ask: "What do You want to do today Jesus?"

No doubt, Paul prayed what he believed; that is, when a Christian is "filled with the knowledge of God's will," he will know that the Lord Jesus Christ lives His life through him. In knowing this reality and believing it, the Christian will "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord to please Him in all respects?" This is the Purpose Driven Life. The Purpose is the Person of Jesus Christ. He's not the Christian's co-pilot. He's doing the flying or He's not really Lord. The Christian is God's passenger, admiring the astonishing heights of His presence.

Paul wrote of soaring with Christ when he said: "The Father chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love the Father predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will..." The expression "through Jesus Christ" is more than just a past event. It is an ongoing experience. Christians can be sons of God only because the Son of God lives in them. They are chosen of God only because the Chosen One lives in them. They are holy and blameless only because the Holy and Blameless One lives His holy and blameless life through them.

No wonder Paul prayed that the saints would know the kind intention of the Father's will. His salvation makes them an amazing success. They are the "signs and wonders" of the Person Driven Life. *RC*

Study Verses: Colossians 1 and 2; Ephesians 1

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