

**Subject: *God's Overlooked Gift***

**Scripture: *Colossians 1:9-18***

This text is so rich that we can only scratch the surface. At first it seems like a very complicated passage, but it is actually straightforward and has a very logical flow of thought. I want to show you how the passage unfolds and then we will focus on the main thought of what I will call "God's Overlooked Gift."

In last Sunday's edition of the Bristol Herald Courier, there was an article about how much money is spent on gifts. The figures were from last year since it's too early to know what was spent in 2016. The article said that estimated retail sales in national department stores totaled almost \$24 billion. The estimated value of online and mail order sales was a staggering \$55.7 billion. We know the most valuable gift of all can't be found in a store or online. That gift was given when Jesus came down and gave His life to save us from our sins. The gift of salvation is free to us, but it is not cheap. There is a gift that comes with salvation that is often overlooked. Before we get to that overlooked gift from God, let's see what the passage says as a whole.

**THE SUPREME KNOWLEDGE (vs. 9)**

**THE SUPREME PURPOSE (vs. 10)**

**THE SUPREME POWER (vs. 11)**

**THE SUPREME PRIVILEGE (vs. 12-13)**

**THE SUPREME PERSON (vs. 13-18)**

- Jesus is supreme in salvation (vs. 13-14)
- Jesus is supreme in revelation (vs. 15)
- Jesus is supreme in position (vs. 15)
- Jesus is supreme in creation (vs. 16-17)
- Jesus is supreme in resurrection (vs. 18)

Everything in this text fits together and builds toward the climax at the end of verse 18, "that in all things Jesus might have the preeminence." That means Jesus is first place, number one. The word can mean superior, surpassing, peerless, or supreme. He has no rivals and no peers. He is the supreme Lord over all. With that in mind I want us to focus on verses 9-10 where Paul describes how he was praying for these believers to be filled with the knowledge of God's will so they would walk worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him, and being fruitful in every good work. What is God's overlooked gift? It is knowing and doing His will so that we please Him and we are fruitful in every good work He has for us to do.

Here is a statement I want you to think about:

- The greatest tragedy in life is not what people suffer, but what they miss

If that is true, and I believe it is, then the greatest tragedy is for us to not know and do God's will for our life.

### **1. You need to know God's will for your life**

- **Ephesians 5:15-17** <sup>15</sup> See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, <sup>16</sup> Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

We may know many things in life (job, finances, hobbies), but the most important knowledge is to understand God's will for our life. Knowing God's will is not the kind of wisdom we have on our own.

- **Jeremiah 10:23** O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

### **2. You can understand God's will only by knowing His Word**

- **Psalms 1:1-2** <sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- **Romans 12:1-2** <sup>1</sup> I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup> And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

### **3. You need the support and counsel of godly people**

This is why God puts us in families and churches. We need other people who are living by God's wisdom and doing His will to help and encourage us.

- **Proverbs 13:20** He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.
- **Proverbs 15:22** Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

### **4. You should make God's will your top priority**

It is God's priority and it should be our priority. It is the proof of our salvation.

- **Matthew 7:21** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

- **Luke 8:20-21** <sup>20</sup> And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. <sup>21</sup> And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.

## 5. **You should accept God's will as your greatest privilege**

- **Matthew 6:9-10** <sup>9</sup> After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup> Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

When we pray that God's will be done on earth as it is done in heaven, we must be willing to do His will or we are being dishonest and praying like a hypocrite.

This verse is talking about the angels in heaven who always obey God and do His will promptly, consistently, and completely. Do you think they are honored to do so? Of course, what could be a higher honor than doing God's will? God gives us the same privilege. It is actually the reason for our salvation.

- **Philippians 2:12-13** <sup>12</sup> Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. <sup>13</sup> For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Too many times people look at God's will as something they have to do instead of something they get to do. God's will affects every area of our life (our marriage, our children, our church, our work or school). Do we see these things as something we have to do or something we get to do? Are they a drudgery or a delight?

Knowing and doing the will of God begins at the start of the day and it begins with our submission to God, our commitment to honor Him.

- **Psalms 143:8** Cause me to hear thy lovingkindness in the morning; for in thee do I trust: cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee.

We will never desire God's will until we believe His will is best.

- **God's will is what you would always choose if you knew all the facts**

The story of this world can be summed up around two people with two different attitudes about the will of God. All the sin and suffering that is in the world is because of Adam who said to God: "Not thy will, but mine be done." Salvation and all of God's blessings are because Jesus prayed to the Father: "Not my will, but thine be done."

D. L. Moody devoted his adult life to preaching God's Word and training men for the ministry. This verse is on his tombstone:

- **1 John 2:17** And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.