



A LEADER'S PRAYER

PART 2
COLOSSIANS 1:9 – 12 (NKJV)

Warren W. Wiersbe,
The Bible Exposition
Commentary, vol. 2
(Wheaton, IL: Victor Books,
1996), 111-112.

COLOSSIANS 1:9 – 12 (NKJV)

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;

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;

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

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



The prayers in Paul's prison letters are undoubtedly unique.

- To begin with, he prays for others and not for himself. The requests in his prayers center on spiritual blessings, not on material or physical matters.
- Of course, it is not wrong to pray about physical or material needs, but spiritual needs are vastly more important.



How would you pray for a group of people you had never seen?

- All that Paul knew about the believers in Colossae, he learned from their faithful pastor, Epaphras.
- Paul knew that the false teaching was threatening the church, so he focused on that problem. In his prayer, Paul made three requests.



PAUL PRAYED FOR...

- **Spiritual Intelligence (Colossians 1:9)**
- **Practical Obedience (Colossians 1:10)**
- **Moral Excellence (Colossians 1:11 – 12)**



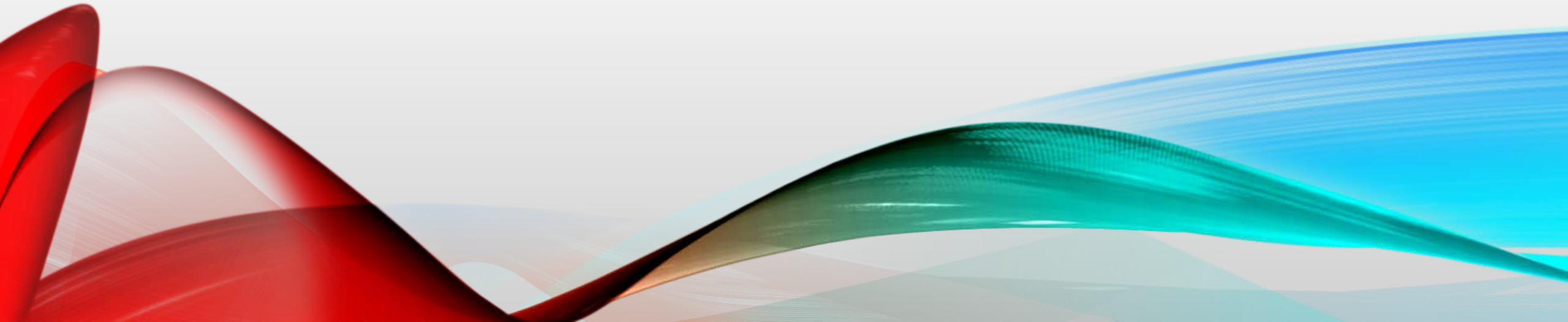
HE PRAYED FOR PRACTICAL OBEDIENCE (COLOSSIANS 1:10)

- The false teachers in Colossae attracted people through their offer of “spiritual knowledge”, but they did not relate this knowledge to life.
- In the Christian life, knowledge and obedience go together.



There is no separation between learning and living.

- The wisdom about which Paul prayed was not simply a head knowledge of deep spiritual truths.



Colossians 1:28 (NKJV)

Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 2:3 (NKJV)

in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.



Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Colossians 4:5 (NKJV)

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

True spiritual wisdom MUST affect DAILY life.





WISDOM AND PRACTICAL INTELLIGENCE¹⁰ MUST GO TOGETHER

Exodus 31:3 (NKJV)

And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

Deuteronomy 4:6 (NKJV)

Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

1 Corinthians 1:19 (NKJV)

For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.”



As we grow deeper in God's Word, or in the "deeper truths", what we discover should never detour us from practical Christian living.

We are to have burning hearts of devotion to Christ and not get big egos and start creating problems in our homes and churches.

Luke 24:32 (NKJV)

And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”



ALL BIBLE TRUTHS ARE PRACTICAL, NOT THEORETICAL.

- If we grow in knowledge, we should also grow in grace.

2 Peter 3:18 (NKJV)

but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.



**TWO WORDS SUMMARIZE THE
PRACTICALITY OF THE CHRISTIAN
LIFE:**

WALK* and *WORK



**The sequence is important: first wisdom;
then walk; then work.**

16

**I cannot work for God unless I walk with
Him, but I cannot walk with Him if I am
ignorant of His will.**

The believer who spends time daily in the Word and prayer will know God's will and be able to walk with Him and work for Him.

Acts 6:4 (NKJV)

but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”



After all, our purpose in life is not to please ourselves but to please the Lord.

- We should walk worthy of **our calling.** (Ephesians 4:1)
- We should walk worthy of **the Gospel.** (Philippians 1:27)
- This means we will walk worthy of **God.** (1 Thessalonians 2:12)
- In short, we should walk to *please* **God.** (1 Thessalonians 4:1)



**It is not we who work for God;
it is God who works in us and through
us to produce the fruit of His grace.**

Philippians 2:12 – 13 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you 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;

¹³ for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.



Christian service is the result of Christian devotion.

- The work that we do is the outflow of the life that we live.
- It is by abiding in Christ that we can produce fruit.

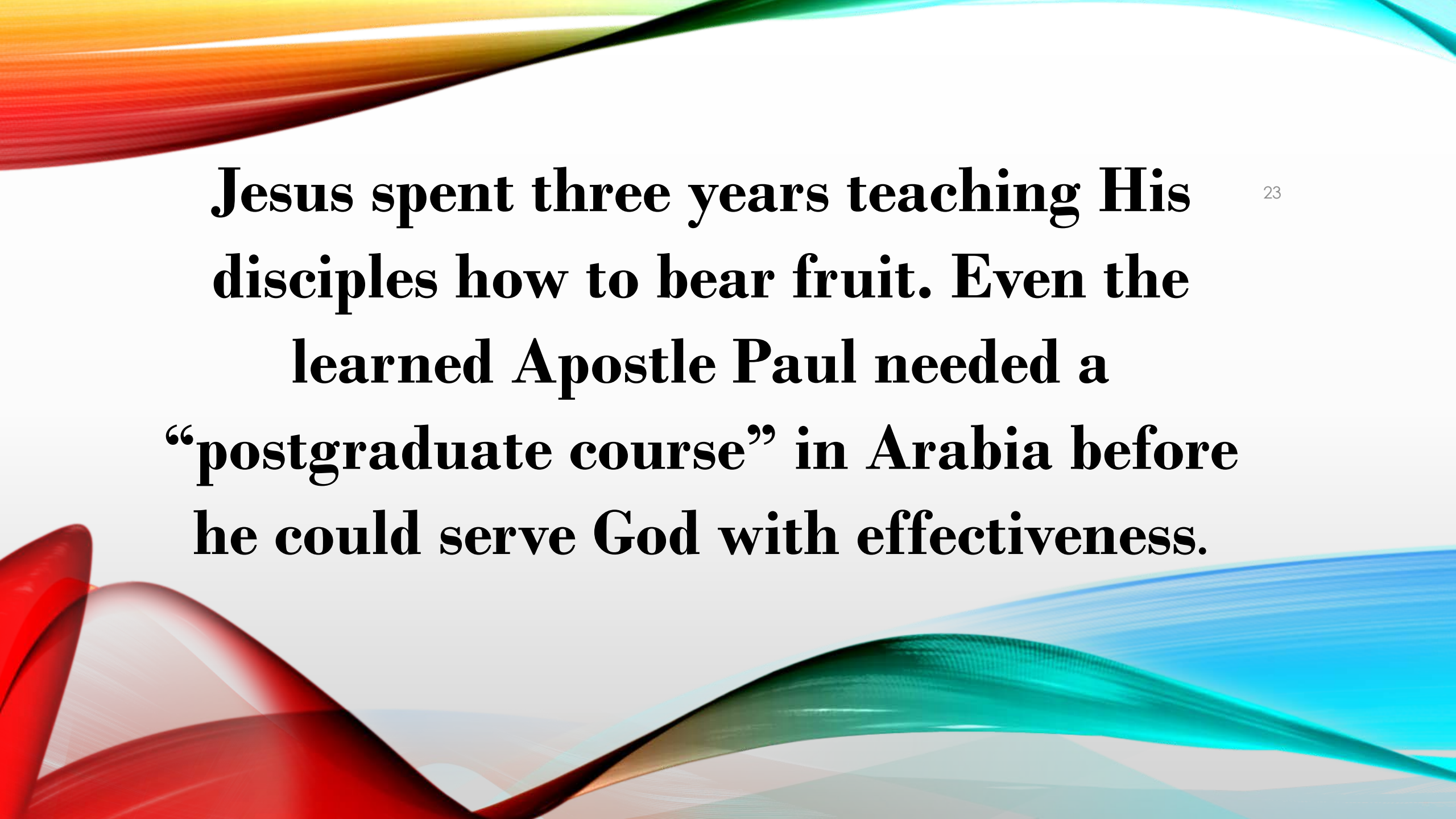


John 15:1 (NKJV)

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

- God must make the worker before He can do the work.
- God spent thirteen years preparing Joseph for his ministry in Egypt and eighty years preparing Moses to lead Israel.





Jesus spent three years teaching His disciples how to bear fruit. Even the learned Apostle Paul needed a “postgraduate course” in Arabia before he could serve God with effectiveness.

A newborn babe can cry and make its presence known, but it cannot work.

- A new Christian can witness for Christ and even win others, but he must be taught to walk and learn God's wisdom before being placed in an office of responsible ministry.

1 Timothy 5:22 (NKJV)

Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.



GOD'S WISDOM REVEALS GOD'S WILL

- As we obey God's will in our walk, we can work for Him and bear fruit.
- We will not just occasionally serve God; we will be “fruitful in every good work” (Col. 1:10).
- But there is a blessed by-product of this experience: “increasing in the knowledge of God” (Col. 1:10).



As we walk with God and work for God, we get to know Him better and better.

- Our Christian lives desperately need *balance*.
- Indeed, we get to know God better as we pray in our private rooms and as we meditate on His Word.
- We also get to know Him as we walk in our daily lives and work to win others and help His people.
- Worship and service are not competitive.



Luke 10:39 – 42 (NKJV)

39 And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.

40 But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

41 And Jesus answered and said to her, "**Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.**

42 **But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."**



- Worship and service always go together. When He was ministering on earth, our Lord retired to pray—then He went out to serve.

Matthew 14:22 – 23 (NKJV)

22 Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.



We need to avoid the extremes of impractical mysticism and fleshly enthusiasm.

- As we spend time with God, we get to understand Him and His will for our lives; and as we go out to obey Him, we learn more.
- Practical obedience means pleasing God, serving Him, and getting to know Him better.
- Any doctrine that isolates the believer from the needs of the world around him is not spiritual.



Matthew 25:41 – 46 (NKJV)

41 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

42 for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink;

43 I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.’



44 “Then they also will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?’

45 Then He will answer them, saying, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”



A LEADER'S PRAYER

Paul has prayed that we might have spiritual intelligence and that this intelligence might result in practical obedience.

- There is a third request that completes these first two; without it, the Christian life could not be mature.

