

Discovery Group - Colossians

(2) *Knowing God's Will*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Colossians 1:1-14

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- How does eternal hope impact your life now?
- Of the five things listed in the article, which challenges you the most? Which causes you to rejoice?
- What does it mean that Jesus has qualified & rescued you? How are these aspects of faith challenged in your life? How do you stand firm in these truths?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read the entire book of Colossians again this week.

Focus on 1:15 — 2:5

Knowing God's Will

When we believe the gospel, we are given the great gift of a definite hope. This hope is laid up for us in heaven — it is for something in the future. Eternal life. Freedom from the pain and decay of our earthly existence, as well as from sin and evil of all kinds. But this hope that is rooted in the future impacts us today.

It is the gospel message that leads us to true hope. This gospel is bearing fruit all over the world - bringing people into faith and changing lives. As receivers of the gospel, the Father desires that we know His will. Furthermore, it is God's intent that, by knowing His will, you will:

(1) Walk worthy of Him. Your daily life will be so different, and so filled with His love and power, that it will actually be worthy of God Himself.

(2) Please Him. You can bring God pleasure - and you in fact do so by living a life of hope and belief.

(3) Bear fruit. Because of the way you live, others will taste and see who Jesus is - what the true nature of God is really like. You are the evidence of His grace.

(4) Know God more and more. You know God. Let that sink in. And you can know Him more. He wants relationship with you. You can experience Him.

(5) Be strengthened to endure. Life is going to be hard - and the gospel itself will add to the usual trials of our humanity. Even so, the gospel gives you the strength to persevere no matter what. In fact, you can do this joyfully as you remember and give thanks for all God has done for you.

This joyful remembrance of what He has done is hugely significant. In this passage the Spirit directs us to two specific things for which we can always be thankful. God has:

Qualified you to share in the inheritance of saints (holy people). He has not only given you an amazing inheritance (the object of the hope mentioned earlier), but he has qualified you for it. You receive these wonderful blessings from Jesus as if you were good enough for them(!). Jesus has done this for you.

Rescued you from darkness and put you in the Kingdom of Jesus, where your freedom has been bought and your sins forgiven. You were headed for destruction, living under the rule of sin and evil. But now you are in a whole new Kingdom. You are a citizen of heaven.