

Colossians – Characteristics of Faithful Brethren Col. 1:9-12

Thesis: To help us understand the characteristics of faithful brethren so that we can be faithful brethren.

Introduction:

As Paul opens the letter to the church in Colosse, he calls them “faithful brethren” (1:2). Throughout our text, he explains exactly what faithful brethren are. When we understand the characteristics of faithful brethren, we will be more apt to be faithful brethren.

Paul speaks very highly of the brethren in Colosse.

I. Faithful brethren are “filled with the knowledge of His will” (1:9).

- A. It was Paul’s prayer that they “be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”
 1. Paul continuously prayed for the brethren in Colosse.
 - a. Paul was thankful for the brethren (1:3-8).
 - b. Paul even tells them in this text that he did “not cease to pray for” them (1:9).
 2. In this instance, he prays that they will “be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”
 - a. Paul wanted them to be filled with wisdom.
 - 1) Paul encourages the Colosse brethren to be filled with wisdom.
 - a) Col. 3:16 - 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.
 - b) Col. 4:5 - Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.
 - 2) This kind of wisdom comes only from Christ and a study of his words.
 - a) Notice this origin of wisdom from Colossians.
 - i. Col. 1:28 - Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.
 - ii. Col. 2:3 - in whom (the Father and Christ) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 - b) Notice also the origin of wisdom from elsewhere.
 - i. Js. 1:5 - If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

- ii. **Js. 3:17** - But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
 - b. Paul also wanted them to be filled with spiritual understanding.
 - 1) “**Spiritual understanding**” is a mental putting together of spiritual things.
 - 2) Paul wanted the brethren to be able to put all spiritual things together.
 - 3) They should have been able to understand completely the scriptures because of their desire to study it.
- B. Today, if we are going to be faithful brethren, we must “**be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.**”
 - 1. There is a natural growth that is expected in a Christian.
 - a. **I Pet. 2:1-2** - Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, {2} as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,
 - b. **II Pet. 1:5-8** - But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, {6} to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, {7} to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. {8} For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - 2. If only those who do the will of God are going to heaven (**Mt. 7:21**), then it stands to reason that we can know His will through His word.
 - 2. If we are going to be faithful brethren, we must “**be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.**”

II. Faithful brethren “walk worthy of the Lord” (**1:10**).

- A. Paul wanted the brethren to be “**filled with the knowledge of His will**” so that they could “**walk worthy of the Lord;**” which would serve a three-fold purpose.
 - 1. Walking worthy of the Lord would mean that they would be “**fully pleasing [to] Him.**”
 - a. Any time we are doing what God would have us to do, we are well pleasing to Him.
 - b. **Mt. 25:23** (The five talent and the two talent servant was faithful to their master) - **His lord said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.”**
 - 2. Walking worthy of the Lord would mean that they would be “**fruitful in every good work.**”
 - a. To be fruitful means that you are productive for Christ.

III. Faithful brethren are “strengthened with all might” (1:11).

- A. When the brethren are “filled with the knowledge of His will” and “walk worthy of the Lord,” then they will be “strengthened with all might.”
 - 1. This strength comes only by the Lord.
 - a. Eph. 3:16 - that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,
 - b. Eph. 6:10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
 - 2. To have this strength from the Lord we must be in the Lord.
- B. We are strengthened by the Lord so that we can live in “all patience and longsuffering with joy.”
 - 1. We need this strength to endure in this life.
 - 2. We also have joy as we endure this life because of the hope that we have (1:12).

Conclusion:

If we are faithful brethren (i.e. done the things outlined in this passage), then God “has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light” (1:12).

- I. Faithful brethren are “filled with the knowledge of His will” (1:9).
- II. Faithful brethren “walk worthy of the Lord” (1:10).
- III. Faithful brethren are “strengthened with all might” (1:11).