

**“Knowing How to Please”**  
**Colossians 1:9-12**

**I. Praying for Knowledge**

- A. The knowledge of God’s *will*.
  - 1. Not God’s will for the various seasons and milestones of life.
  - 2. But His desire for how we should obey Him in every situation.
- B. Such knowledge guides us when applications of God’s word are not always clear or easy.
- C. Such wisdom and understanding comes from the Holy Spirit.

**II. The Result of that Knowledge**

- A. Knowing God’s will teaches us how to please God.
- B. Pleasing God is not impossible.
  - 1. The scripture commands us to strive for it.

*1 Thessalonians 4:1a - As for other matters, brothers and sisters, we instructed you how to live in order to please God, as in fact you are living.*

*Hebrews 13:16 - And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*

- 2. Christ’s work cleanses us, and our works, from sin.

*1 Corinthians 15:3 - For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...*

*1 John 1:7 - but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

*Colossians 1:12 - giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.*

- C. Striving to please God is the rational response to all He has done for believers.

1. He is our Maker and Sustainer
2. He is our Redeemer

*Titus 3:3–5* - <sup>3</sup> For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit...

*Romans 12:1* - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, pleasing to God, which is your reasonable service.

- D. Strength to please the Lord must come from the Lord.