

COLOSSIANS

A *life* WORTH LIVING

SERIES 1 – COMING BACK TO RIGHT THINKING
Part 2 – What Is True About God’s Plan For Us

Pastor Mark Hartman
June 9, 2013

It is the great goal of God to change us from the inside out to have the character and nature of **Jesus** inside us.

*Our purpose is to Love and Lead All People to **Life Change** In Christ.*

Galatians 5:22–23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control....”

Colossians 1:10 “so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work...”

I. GOD HAS A **PATHWAY** FOR CHANGING OUR LIVES AND HE CAN HELP US FIND IT.
(Colossians 1:9)

A. Life is an exercise of getting us ready for **eternity**.

Jeremiah 29:11 “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (NIV)

1. **Knowledge** of His will.

2. **Spiritual** wisdom.

a. *James 3:13-15 “If you are wise, live a life of steady goodness so that only good deeds will pour forth. And if you don't brag about them, then you will be truly wise! ¹⁴ And by all means don't brag about being wise and good if you are bitter and jealous and selfish; that is the worst sort of lie. ¹⁵ For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, inspired by the devil.”*

- b. Spiritual wisdom means the ability to see this moment, this decision and even this crisis through **God's eyes**, not ours.
- c. *James 1:5* “If you need wisdom—if you want to know what God wants you to do—ask Him, and He will gladly tell you.” (NLT)

3. **Understanding** – the why of what is the right thing.

4. Filled - the word “filled” means to be **controlled** by.

Colossians 1:9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be controlled and led by the knowledge of God's pathway for your Life Change to see things as God sees them and to eventually understand the why's of God's will. (The Mark Hartman paraphrase)

B. God wants to show us the right path to follow that will change us to be like Christ. As we face life choices, He wants to help us see through His eyes what the best choices are and then have the **courage** to choose them. With time, he even helps us to better understand why.

II. GOD HAS A **STRENGTH** THAT WE CAN DEPEND UPON THROUGHOUT OUR LIVES TO GET US THROUGH LIFE'S TOUGHEST DAYS. (Colossians 1:11)

A. *Isaiah 30:15* “The Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says, ‘Only in returning to Me and waiting for Me will you be saved. In quietness and confidence is your strength.’”

B. Endurance is talking about the ability to keep on keeping on when everyone else would have **quit**.

It is a holy determination to refuse to stop – a quiet confidence.

C. “Patience” is an attitude that gives you the power to **wait**, to trust through a problem with a right spirit.

D. “By perseverance and patience the snail reached the ark.” (Charles Spurgeon)

E. God not only shows us the pathway to a victorious life change but He also gives us the **desire** and ability to see it through!

III. ADOPT AN ATTITUDE OF **GRATITUDE** RECOGNIZING THAT WHEN WE GET TO THE END - WE WIN! (Colossians 1:12-13)

A. Heaven and all that comes with it, is our inheritance.

B. *Romans 5:1, 8-9* "Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ⁸ But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. ⁹ And since we have been made right in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly save us from God's judgment."

CDs and DVDs of today's sermon or previous sermons are available for purchase after the service at our Water's Edge Resource Center.

Notes:
