

JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY

June 24,2018

Sermon Title: Jesus is Everything!

Colossians 1:9-18

Central Truth: We are to pray for one another that God will fill all believers with the knowledge of His will so that they will gain insight into His purposes and understanding of spiritual things; as a result, we all should walk in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord.

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. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and [a] conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption [b] through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or [c] principalities or [d] powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

The best way to influence people for God is to intercede with God for people.

1. Faith in Christ (1:9-14).

Jesus is the Catalyst for His Gifts Being Evident in a Believer's Life!

A. Paul prayed for the Colossian believers: (9-11).

- 1) That they may be filled with the knowledge of His will (wisdom and spiritual understanding).
 - admirable character,
 - moral courage,
 - personal integrity

2) That they may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him.

3) That they may be fruitful in every good work.

4) That they may increase in the knowledge of God.

5) That they may be strengthened according to His glorious power.

6) That they may have patience and longsuffering with joy.

B. Paul was also thankful unto God for the believers' blessings (12-14).

1) He thanked God for qualifying them to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

2) He had delivered them from the power of darkness and conveyed them into the kingdom of His Son.

3) They had redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins.

2. Christ Is Superior (1:15-18).

No Other Entity in the Universe Surpasses Him!

A. He is the image of the invisible God.

[the essential manifestation of the unseen God—the visible representation of the invisible]

B. He is the firstborn over all creation [originator]

- C. He created all things . . . all things were created through Him and for Him.
- D. He is before all things.
- E. In Him all things consist [He is the controlling, cohesive force of the universe]
- F. He is the Head of the Body of Christ. [He is the life source]
- G. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead . . . He is preeminent in all things.

Prayer is not preparation for the work, it is the work. —Oswald Chambers

- We must pray for the unsaved that are lost in this world and are headed to Hell.
- We must pray for spiritual understanding.
- We must pray for the mission of Lakeview Church to go forward.
- We must pray for the general welfare of all believers.
- We must pray for our Pastor Search Committee as they seek God's will regarding our next pastoral leader.

How important is it for the general welfare of our church for you to be a committed prayer warrior?

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Memory Verse: 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 . . . (Colossians 1:9).

Prayer: Lord, help me to be a true prayer warrior.

Reading Plan:

Monday:	Colossians 1
Tuesday:	James 3
Wednesday:	James 5
Thursday:	1 Peter 2
Friday	Hebrews 13
Saturday:	1 Thessalonians 5
Sunday:	2 Thessalonians 1

Song for the Week: *Have the Glory*, by John Thurlow (YouTube)

Consider:

- Statement: “The best way to influence people for God is to intercede with God for people.” Discuss what you think of this statement.
- Paul prayed for the believers at Colosse that they may be filled with the knowledge of the Lord’s will. Is this an important prayer to offer as we intercede for our family and friends?
- Paul also thanked the Lord for allowing the Colossians to be partakers of the saints in the light. How does the fact that we are praying for believers affect your understanding of how important this is to their spiritual health?
- Discuss the superiority of Jesus Christ and how that superiority can be a point we can stress to those who are apathetic or weak in their faith.
- Oswald Chambers said, “Prayer is not preparation for the work, it is the work.” How do you feel about this statement and do you agree with it?
- How important is it for the general welfare of our church for you to be a committed prayer warrior?