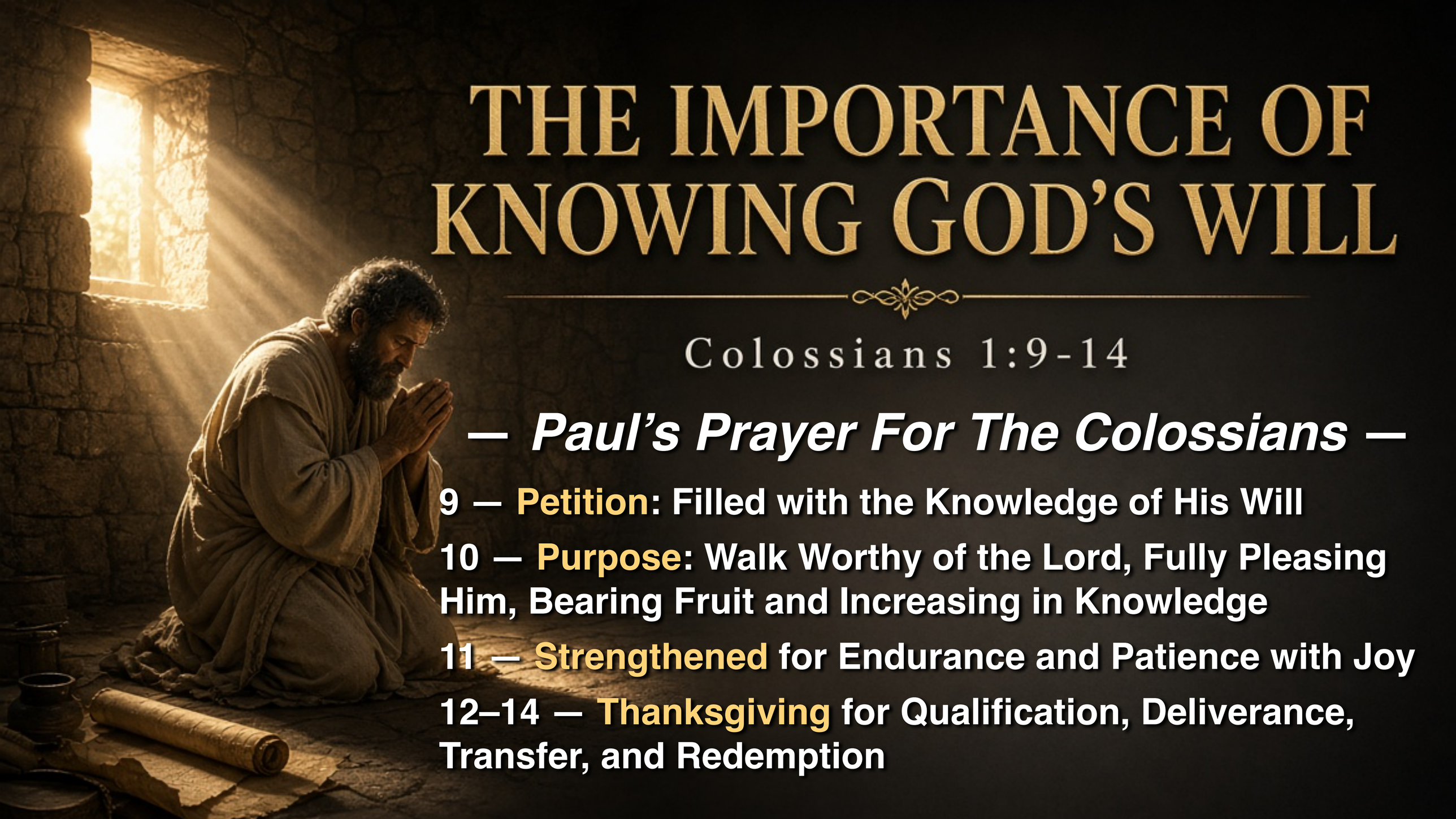
THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL

Colossians 1:9-14





THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL

Colossians 1:9-14

— *Paul's Prayer For The Colossians* —

9 — Petition: Filled with the Knowledge of His Will

10 — Purpose: Walk Worthy of the Lord, Fully Pleasing Him, Bearing Fruit and Increasing in Knowledge

11 — Strengthened for Endurance and Patience with Joy

12–14 — Thanksgiving for Qualification, Deliverance, Transfer, and Redemption

Colossians 1:9–14 (NKJV)

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;

Colossians 1:9–14 (NKJV)

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 conveyed *us* into the
kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom
we have redemption through His blood, the
forgiveness of sins.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

OVERALL PROGRESSION OF THE PRAYER



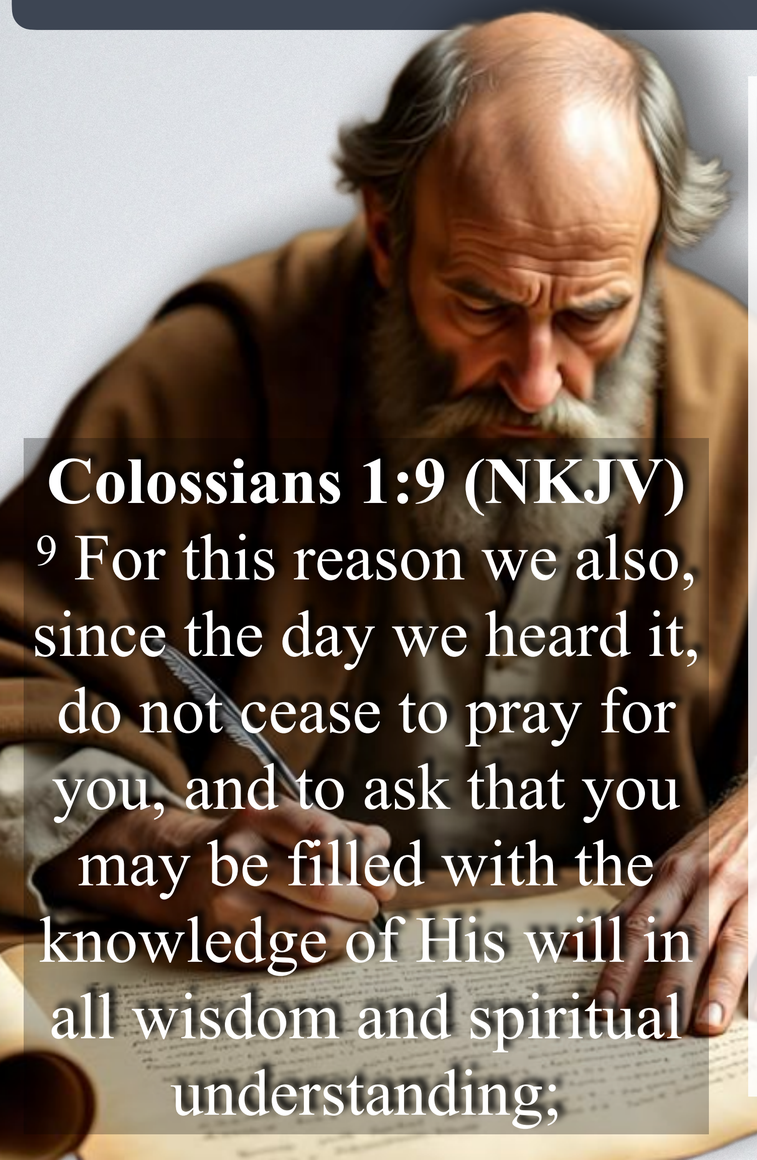
1. **Request (v. 9)**: Filled with epignōsis of God's will, in all sophia and pneumatikē sunesis.
2. **Immediate purpose/result (v. 10a)**: Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him.
3. **Outward and inward fruit (v. 10b)**: Bearing fruit in every good work + increasing in the knowledge (epignōsis) of God.
4. **Empowerment for perseverance (v. 11)**: Strengthened with all power according to His glorious might, for endurance and patience with joy.
5. **Gratitude rooted in status (vv. 12–14)**: Thanksgiving to the Father for qualification to the inheritance of the saints in light, deliverance from darkness, transfer into the Son's kingdom, and redemption/forgiveness in Him.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

PETITION: FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL



Colossians 1:9 (NKJV)
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;

Key Greek Distinctions in Verse 9

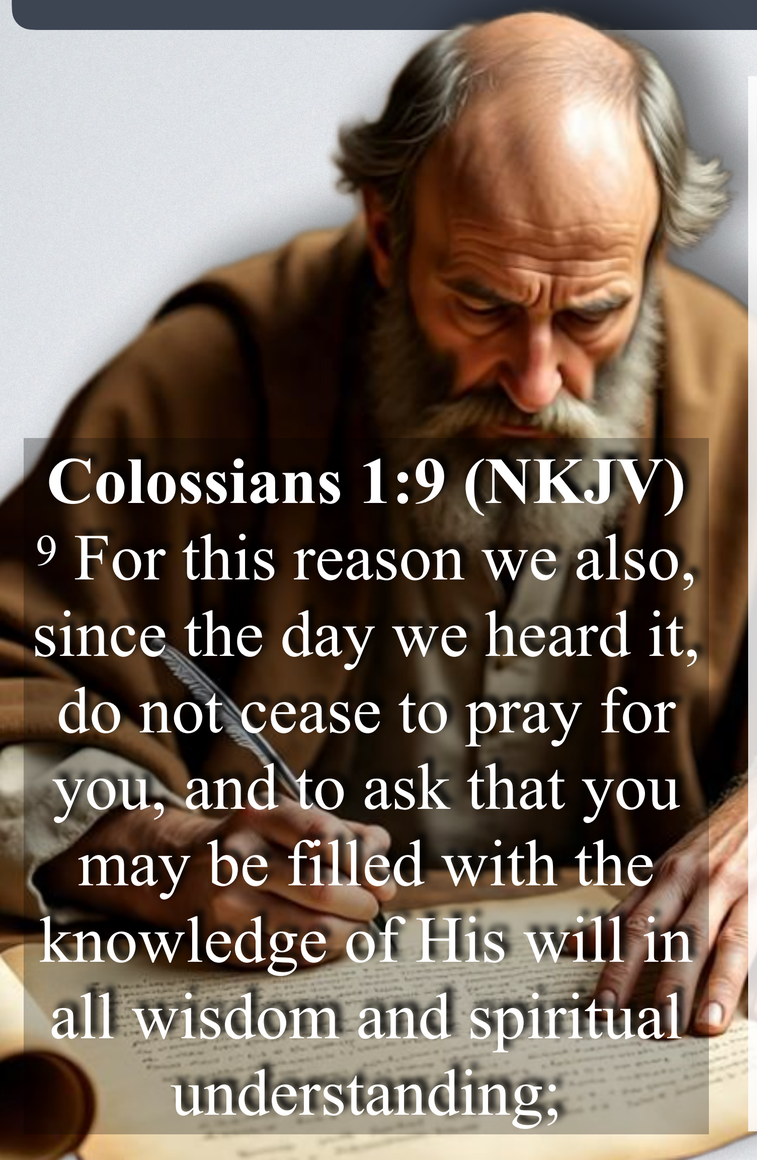
- **ἐπίγνωσις (epignōsis, 1922): "Knowledge," -**
- Thayer and others define it as precise, correct, full, or thorough knowledge, especially of ethical/divine matters.
- Carries the sense of recognition or experiential/ relational knowing that influences life, not mere information.
- Paul uses it repeatedly in the Prison Epistles (Eph 1:17; 4:13; Phil 1:9; Col 1:9–10; 2:2; 3:10).

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

PETITION: FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL



Colossians 1:9 (NKJV)
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;

Key Greek Distinctions in Verse 9

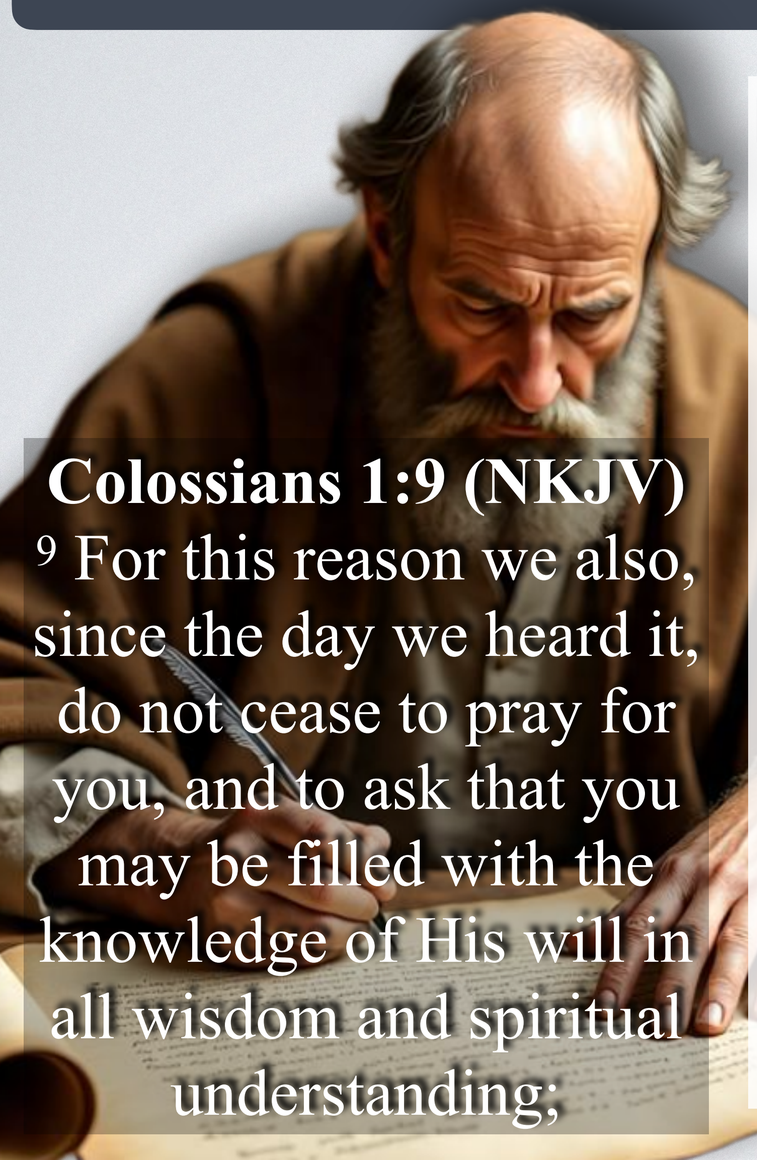
- **ἐπίγνωσις (epignōsis, 1922): "Knowledge," -**
- Knowledge is never an end in itself; however it is absolutely necessary for one to have a worthy walk, fruitfulness, growth, strength for endurance, and thankful recognition of God's provisions.
- This counters any Colossian tendency toward speculative or elitist "knowledge" (whether early Gnostic-leaning or philosophical).

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

PETITION: FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL



Colossians 1:9 (NKJV)
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;

Key Greek Distinctions in Verse 9

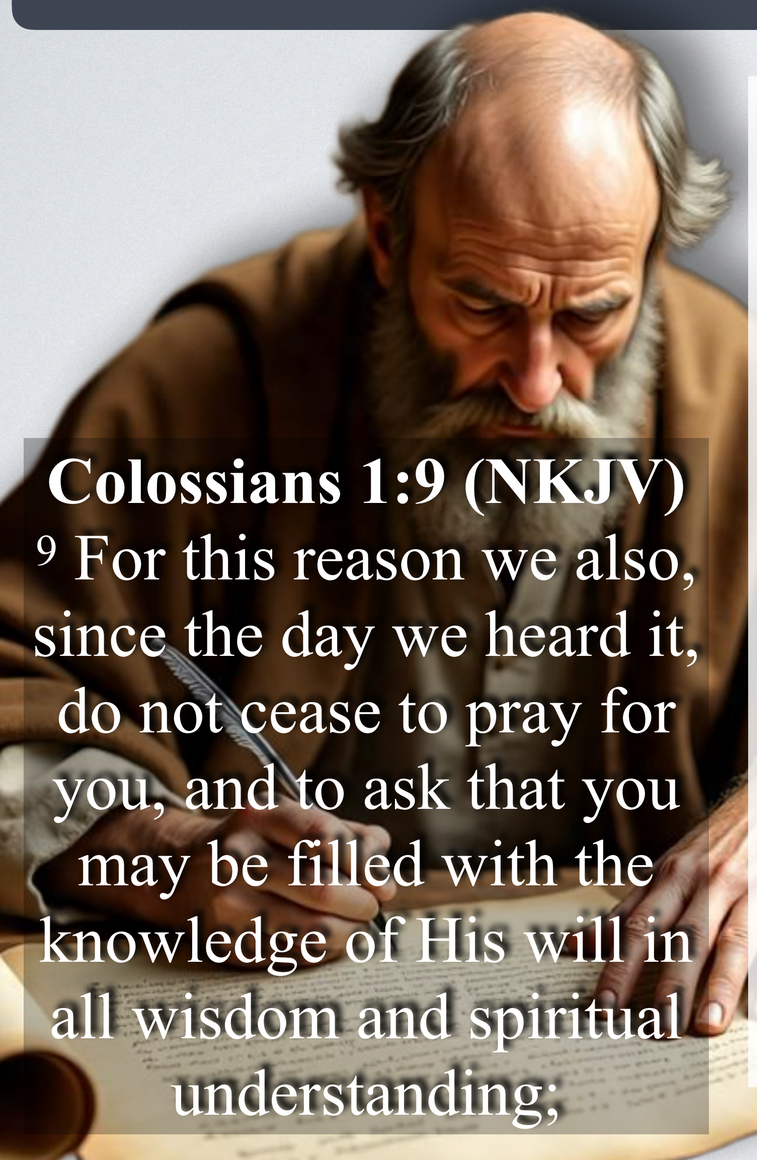
- **σοφία (sophia, 4678): Wisdom**—practical skill in living according to divine principles, the ability to judge and act rightly (2 Peter 1:2–4).
- In biblical usage it is rooted in the fear of the Lord (Prov 1:7; 9:10) and, for believers, centered in Christ (1 Cor 1:24, 30; Col 2:3).
- It is the broad capacity to properly apply divine truth (4:5; James 3:13).

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

PETITION: FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL



Colossians 1:9 (NKJV)
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;

Key Greek Distinctions in Verse 9

- **σύνεσις (sunesis, 4907): Understanding/ comprehension/insight**—the faculty of "putting things together," of discerning relationships between truths, implications, and how principles apply in particular situations.
- A.T. Robertson and others note that sophia supplies the general principles while sunesis handles the particular cases. It is the critical, synthetic insight needed for daily decisions.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
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"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

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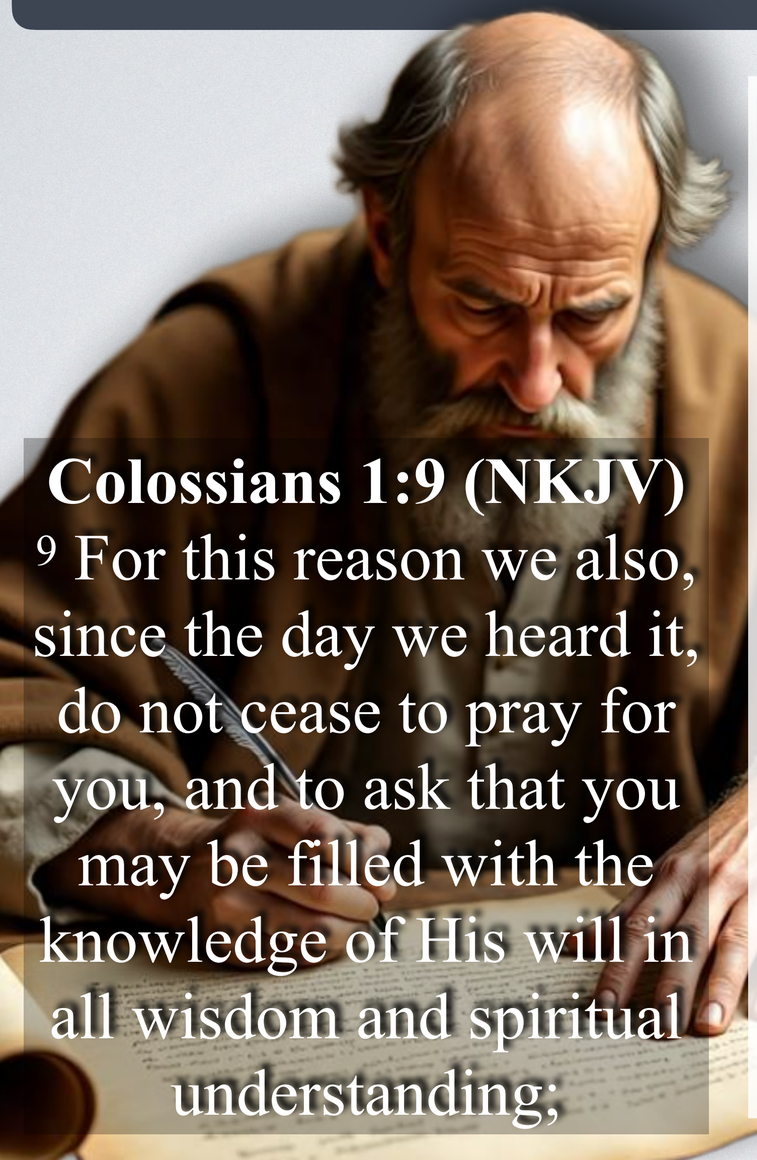

Colossians 1:9 (NKJV)
9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Key Greek Distinctions in Verse 9

- In short: to be FILLED with the **knowledge** of God's will is to possess a full, accurate, and life-shaping grasp of God's will; which is possessed in (or consists of/is accompanied by) all practical **wisdom**, and situational **insight**, which has its origin, perspectives, and applications formed by God's revelation (2 Pet. 1:3).
- The goal is not information stockpiling but transformed living.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

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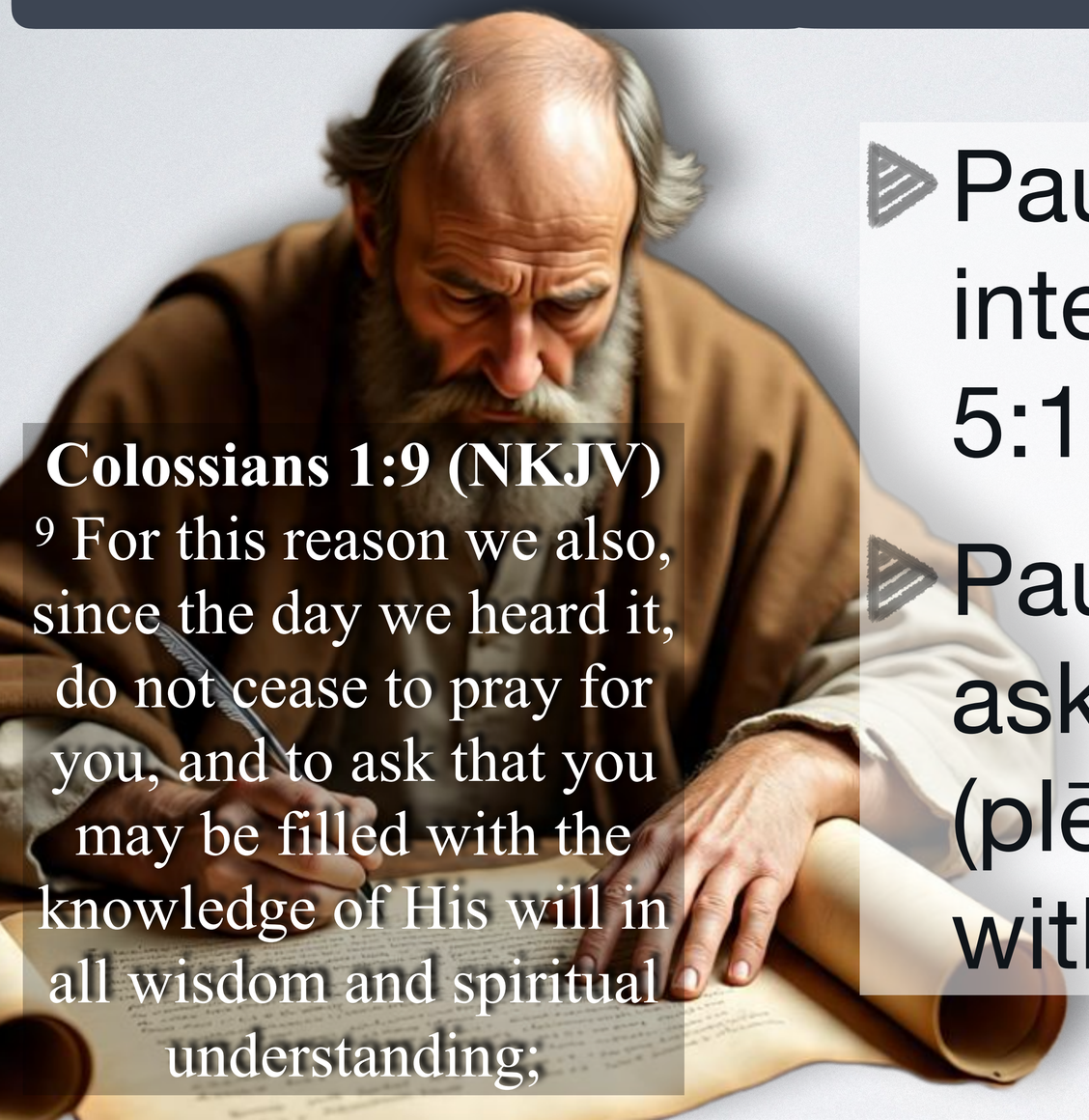

Colossians 1:9 (NKJV)
9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

- Paul's petition is continuous, and intense intercession (cf. 1 Thess 5:17; Eph 1:15–17; Phil 1:9).
- Paul does not cease praying and asking that they be filled (plērōthēte—made complete/full) with the epignōsis of His will.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

PETITION: FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL



Ephesians 1:17–19 (NKJV)

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power …

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

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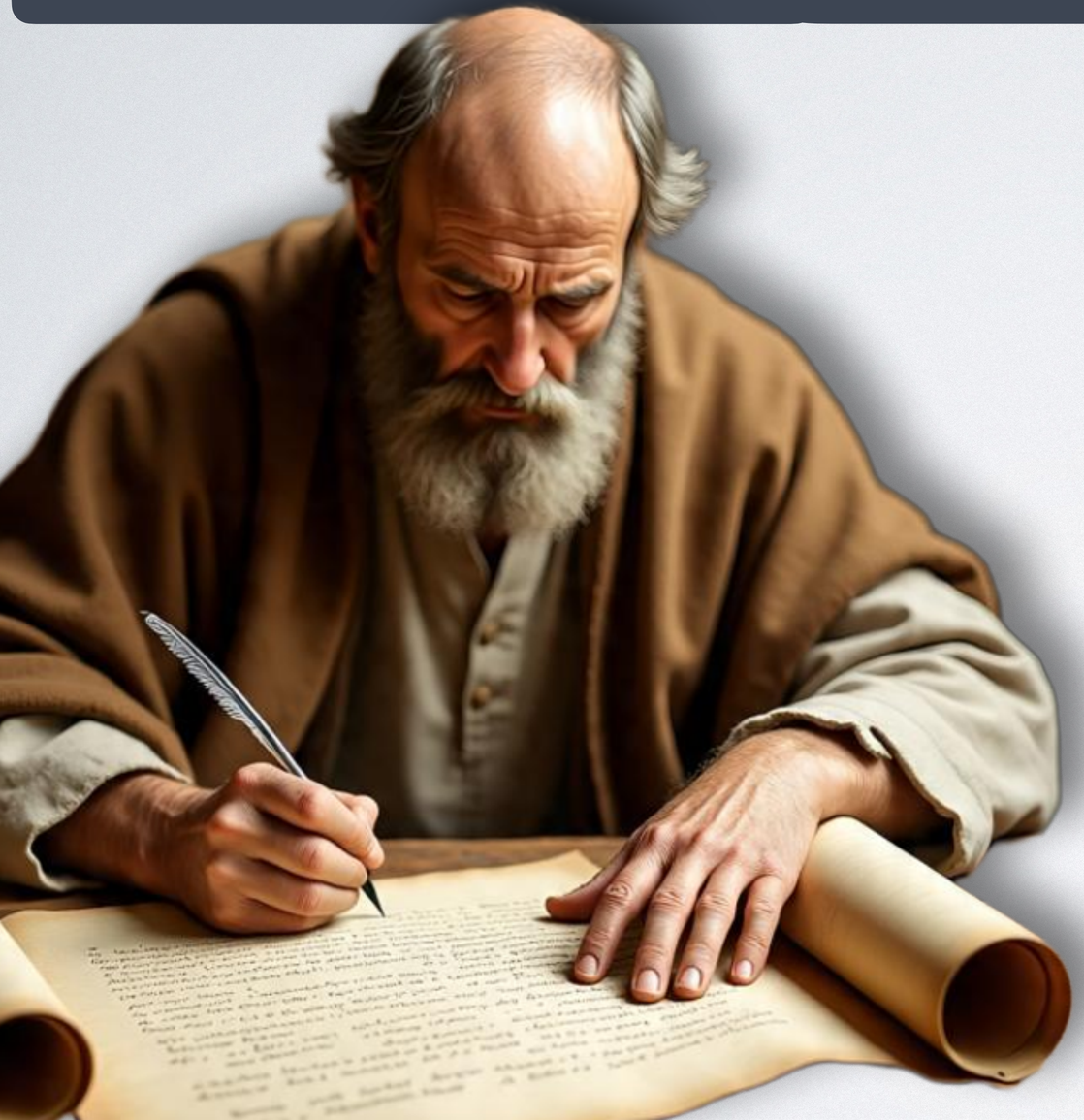


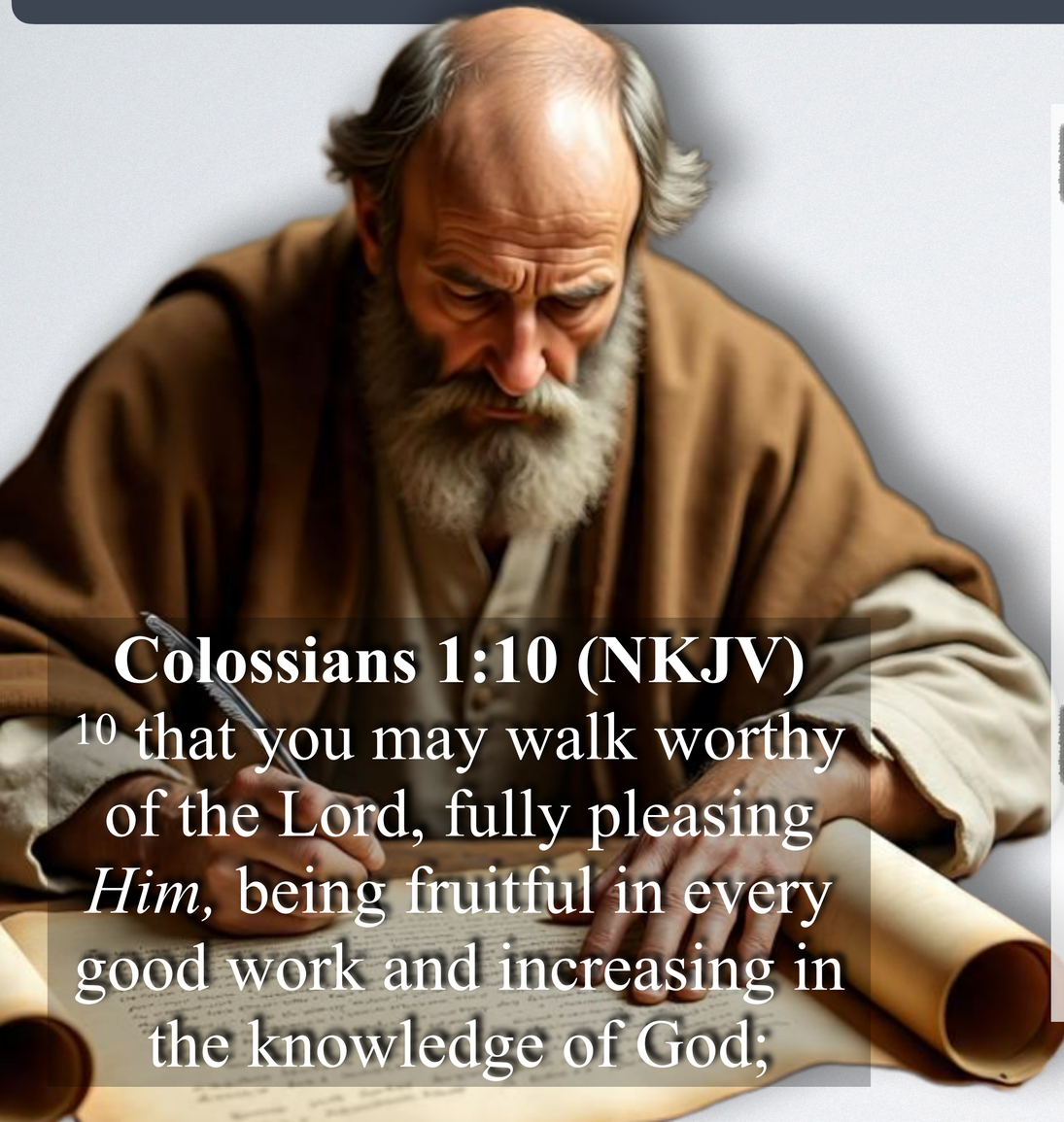
- Eph 5:17 (understand what the will of the Lord is);
- Rom 12:2 (discern the will of God);
- Col 4:12 (Epaphras prays they may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God);
- James 1:5 (ask for wisdom in faith);
- Phil 1:9 (love abounding in knowledge and discernment).

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

THE PURPOSE: WALK WORTHY /FULLY PLEASING HIM (10)



Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)
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;

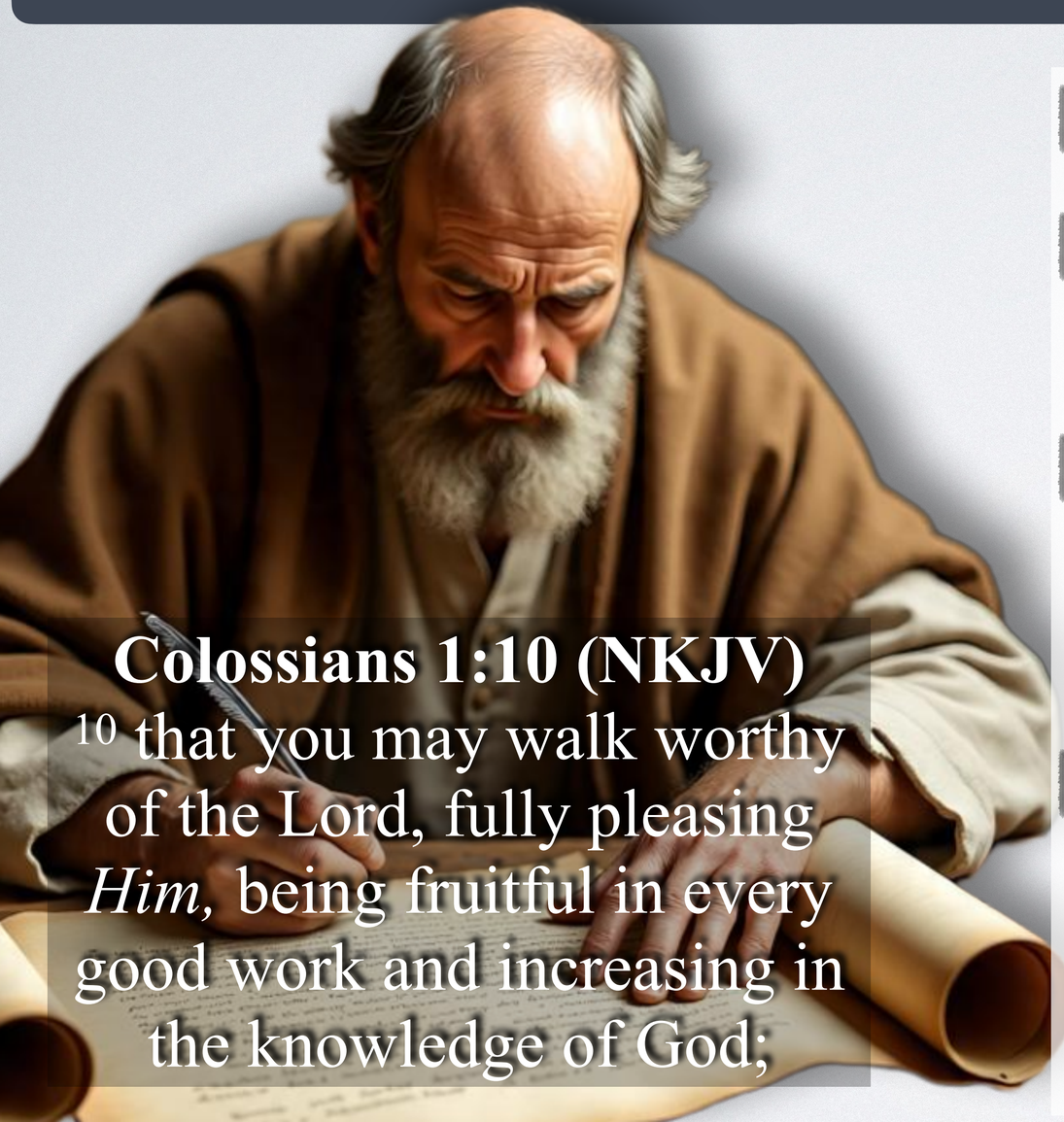
- Knowledge is for conduct. The infinitive peripatēsai expresses purpose/result: so that you may walk worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing (areskeia) (2 Tim 2:15).
- "Walk" is the common metaphor for daily life and conduct (Eph 4:1; 5:15; Col 2:6).

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

THE PURPOSE: WALK WORTHY /FULLY PLEASING HIM (10)



Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)
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;

- Eph 4:1 (walk worthy of the calling)
- 1 Thess 2:12 (that you would walk worthy of God)
- 1 Thess 4:1 (you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God)
- 2 Cor 5:9 (we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him); Rom 14:18; Col 3:20; Heb 11:5–6; 1 John 3:22.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
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"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

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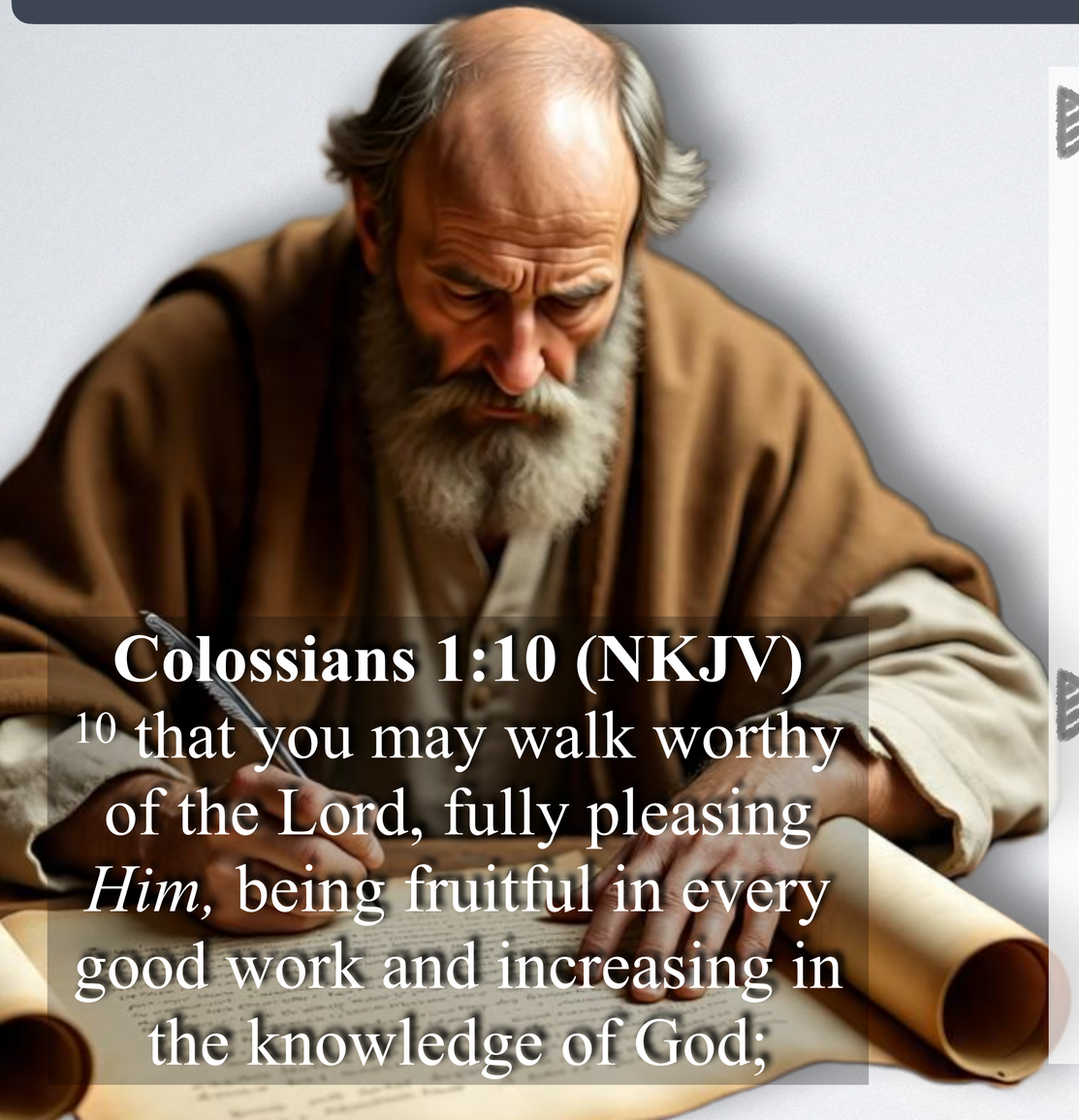


Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)
10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him,* being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

- Two present participles describe the ongoing character of the worthy walk:
  - ☑ bearing fruit in every good work
  - ☑ increasing in the epignōsis of God.
- Fruit is the natural outflow of union with Christ (John 15:5, 8); growth in knowledge is progressive even while one is "filled."

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

THE PURPOSE: STRENGTHENED FOR ENDURANCE / WITH JOY (11)



Colossians 1:11 (NKJV)
11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

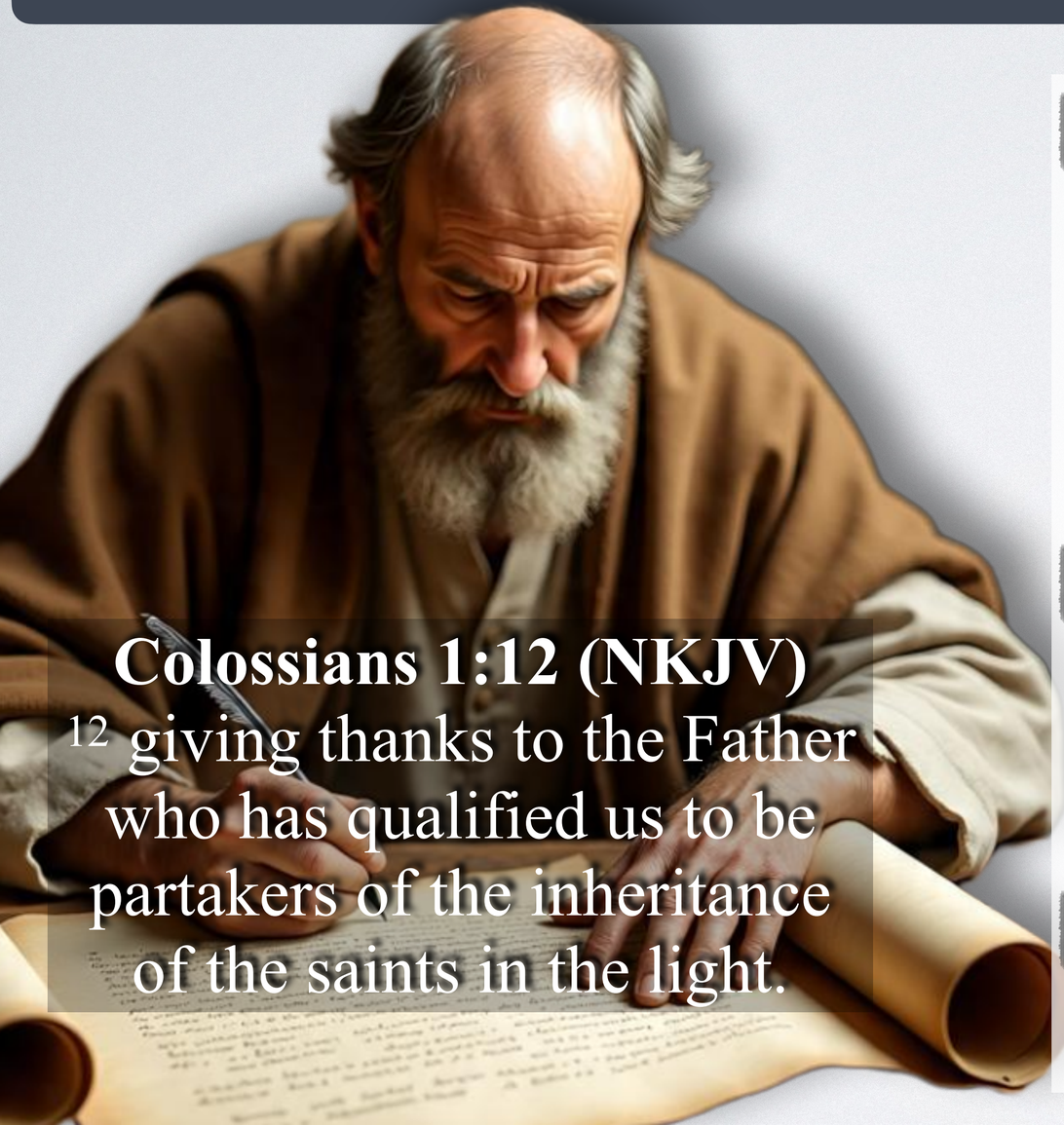
- The power is not for spectacular miracles, but for the ordinary yet demanding virtues of perseverance and patient endurance, and these with joy (not grim resignation).
- Eph 3:16 (strengthened with power through His Spirit); cf. Eph 6:10; Phil 4:13; 2 Cor 12:9–10; 15:13; James 1:2–4; Heb 10:36; 12:1–2; 1 Pet 4:13; Gal 5:22; Col 3:12; 1 Thess 1:6.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

GIVING THANKS FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE (12)



Colossians 1:12 (NKJV)
12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

- Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified (hikanōsanti—made sufficient/fit) you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
- Thanksgiving is the fitting response to status already conferred.
- Followed by the statements of what God has done …

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

GIVING THANKS FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE (12)



- **Qualification/inheritance**: Acts 20:32; 26:18; Eph 1:11, 18; Rom 8:17; 1 Pet 1:3–5; Heb 9:15.
- **Deliverance from darkness**: Luke 22:53; Eph 6:12; Acts 26:18; 1 Pet 2:9; 1 Thess 5:4–5.
- **Transfer into the kingdom**: 2 Tim 4:18; 2 Pet 1:11; John 18:36; Matt 3:17 (beloved Son).
- **Redemption and forgiveness**: Eph 1:7; Rom 3:24; Col 2:13–14; Acts 2:38; 10:43; 1 John 1:9; Heb 9:12.

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"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

GIVING THANKS FOR WHAT GOD HAS DONE (12)



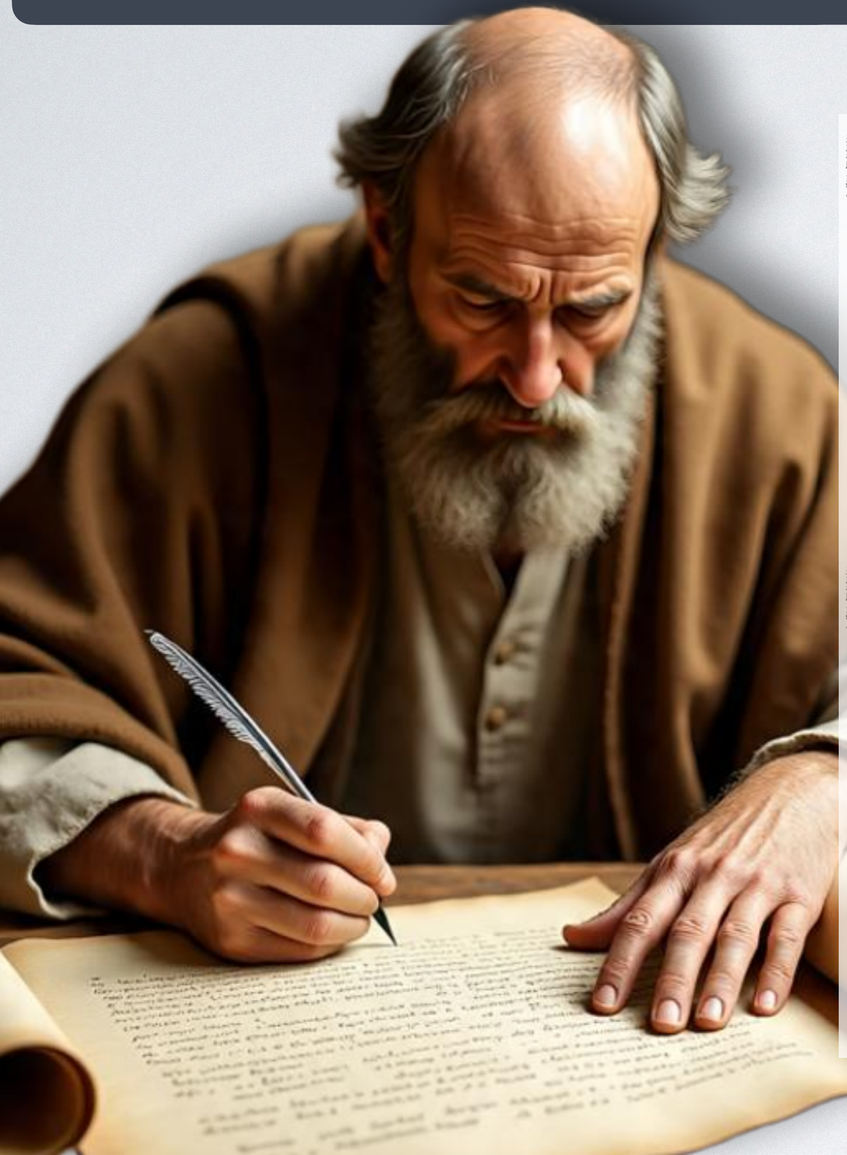
- Scripture does not function as an exhaustive legal code that lists every modern scenario with a direct "thou shalt/thou shalt not."
- Scripture supplies us with everything we need to know in order to live acceptably before God (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16,17)
- Being filled with knowledge, wisdom and spiritual understanding enables believers to apply the revealed principles found in scripture to any circumstance (Hebrews 5:12–14).

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
Living by the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Jesus

"IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL"

— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians — (1:9-14)

APPLICATION: PRINCIPLES, MATURITY, DISCERNMENT



- How can we know slavery, polygamy, blood revenge / private vengeance, unscriptural worship/works, etc., are evil, are practices not pleasing to God?
- How can we know that we should believe in the Trinity and deity of Jesus, observing the Lord's supper on the first day of every week, weekly sacrificial giving, the autonomy of local churches, etc.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST —
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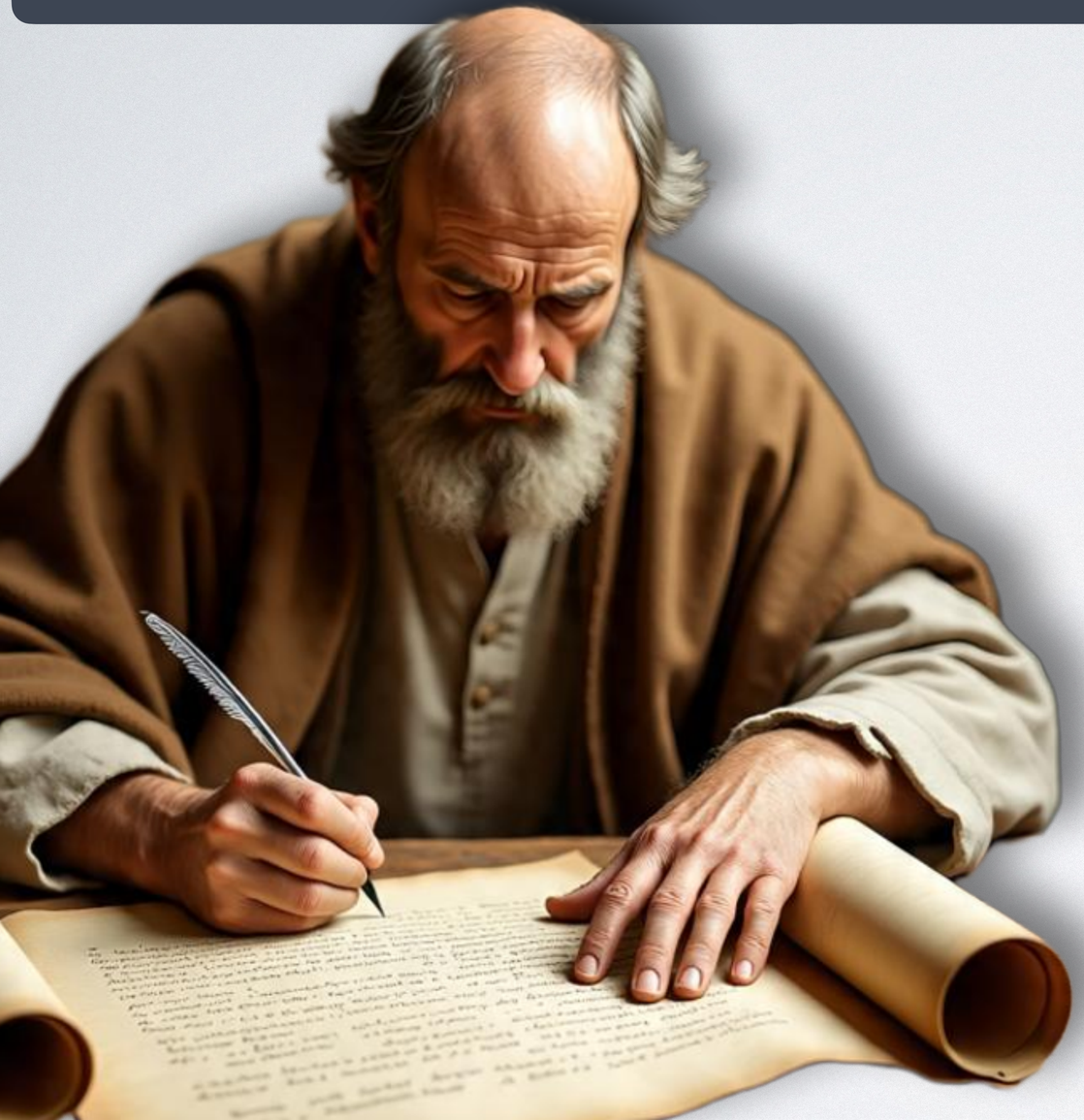
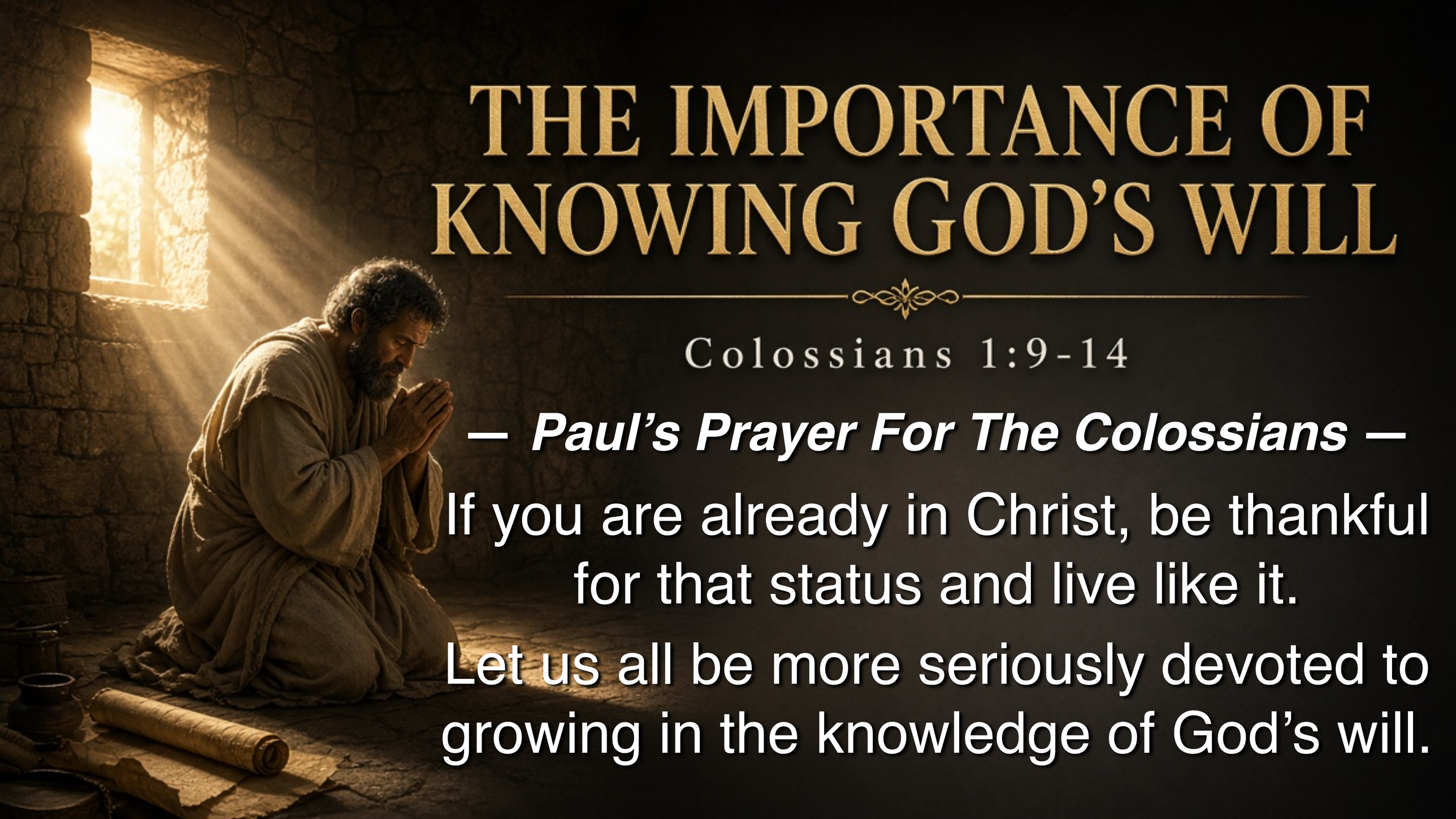


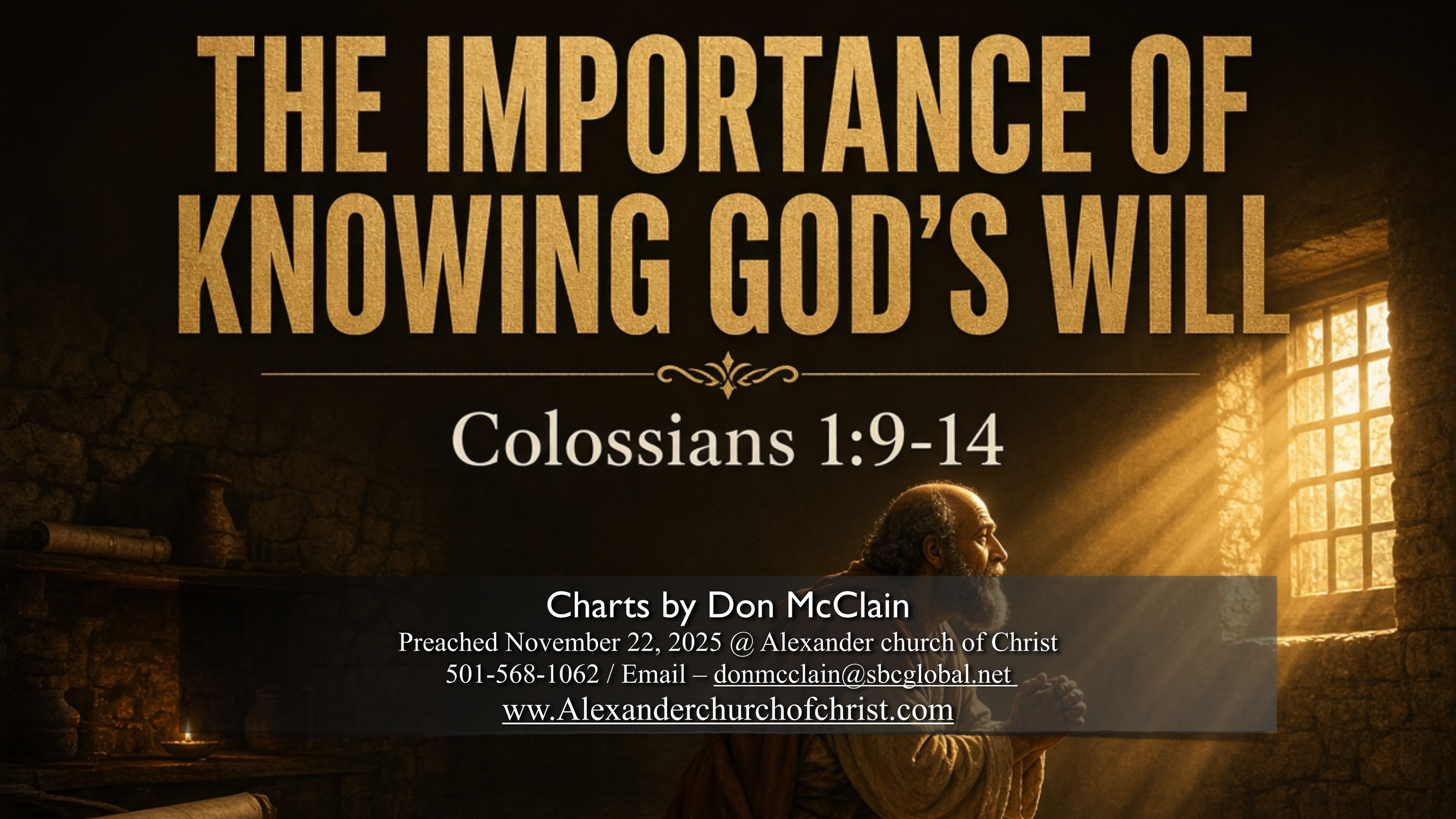
- **Casinos / gambling**: (1 Tim 6:9–10; Heb 13:5; Prov 28:20)
- **Alcohol and recreational substances**: (Eph 5:18; Gal 5:21; Rom 13:13; 1 Cor 6:10)
- **Assembly attendance**: (Heb 10:24–25; Mark 12:29-31)
- **Entertainment / recreation** (Matt 5:28; Phil 4:8; Eph 5:15–16).


THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL
Colossians 1:9-14
— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians —
Have you been delivered from the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of Christ by being baptized into Christ?


THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL
Colossians 1:9-14
— Paul's Prayer For The Colossians —
If you are already in Christ, be thankful for that status and live like it.
Let us all be more seriously devoted to growing in the knowledge of God's will.

THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING GOD'S WILL

Colossians 1:9-14



Charts by Don McClain

Preached November 22, 2025 @ Alexander church of Christ

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ww.Alexanderchurchofchrist.com

Ephesians 1:15–21 (NKJV)

15 Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the
Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, 16 do not
cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you
in my prayers: 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit
of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18
the eyes of your understanding being enlightened;
that you may know what is the hope of His calling,
what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in
the saints,

Ephesians 1:15–21 (NKJV)

19 and what *is* the exceeding greatness of His
power toward us who believe, according to the
working of His mighty power 20 which He worked
in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and
seated *Him* at His right hand in the heavenly
places, 21 far above all principality and power
and might and dominion, and every name that is
named, not only in this age but also in that which
is to come.