



A New Purpose | Colossians 1:9-10

1. Take some time to rehearse the hope that you have in Jesus (this is what the sermon was about last Sunday). Ask everyone to share how important this hope is to them.
2. How does having a personal relationship with Jesus make your life different? In Colossians 1:9-10 we are told that when we begin to follow Jesus, we have a new purpose in life. What do the words of the apostle Paul in v. 10 mean practically to your life?
3. In some ways this purpose is Paul's hope for the Colossian believers. He knows that beginning to follow Jesus is not the end of the story, so he prays that they would live lives that please Jesus. Why do you think that we spend so much time praying for other things for ourselves and others? Do you see how passionate Paul is for God to do his work in them? When is the last time that you expressed this kind of passionate prayer to God on behalf of someone else? (Perhaps you would like to do this together as part of your prayer time this evening.)
4. Paul prays that they would be filled with the knowledge of God's will. This knowledge is a deep understanding of God's plan and desires for us in Jesus' sacrifice for us and our life with Jesus. When we think of God's will, why do we tend to think about what we do not know, rather than what is known and revealed in God's Word?
5. Paul knows that God's will must fill us—permeate and control our entire being—resulting in spiritual wisdom and understanding, a clear discernment about how to live in a way that will please Jesus. People who are hungry for this kind of work of God in their own lives know that the busyness of our culture and of life in general can often get in the way of God's work. How do you create space in your life with God? To what extent do you believe that the expectations others place on us or we place on ourselves are counterproductive to God filling us with the knowledge of his will? To what extent do you think the problem may be that pleasing Jesus is not our primary goal?
6. To what degree do you believe that each of the following may be an issue for you:
 - Knowing God's will—having an awareness of the story of God's will?
 - Creating space in your life with God—dwelling with God and his Word?
 - Obedience—willingly doing what you know God declares that you should do?

How can you help one another with this?