

Colossians 1:9-14

The Key For The Future

Cedar Creek Church // Pass the Baton Sunday // March 22, 2026

Receiving the baton:

Phillip and Terry Pray over Ashley and I...

Coming out of the prayer:

Honor and celebrate Pastor Phillip.

- Call out the elders
- Pray over Phillip and Terry...
- Can we put our hands together and celebrate them one more time...

Transition

What a special day and what a special moment...

I want you to know how honored I am to be your next Pastor...

- God has done some incredible things here over the last 32 years...
- Cedar Creek has had such a faithful legacy from the day it was founded by Pastor Richard through Pastor Phillip.
- Many of you here are the fruit of the faithfulness that has been sown in by great leaders.
- It is an honor to come behind them...
- My heart is that I want to continue that faithful legacy, and we want to build on it together.

I want to introduce you to my family. You have seen my wife, Ashley, we have 3 three kids, Adalyn, Braxton, and Cole... They are 9, 6, and 5...

- And we are so excited to be here and be a part of what's happening here.
- This is such a special church, and you guys have welcomed us with open arms.
- We believe that God has some incredible days in store for the future.

The question is, ***what does that look like? Where do we go from here?***

Build the tension... There is a sense of ***eager expectation*** that transitions bring in life...

- For my daughter, when she found out we were moving here, she thought that it meant that we would get a horse...
- For my son, it was that we were going to get to hunt more...
- With change comes anticipation...
- You know this to be true...
 - When you get married...
 - When you get a new job...
 - When you change grades...
 - When you move, or buy a new house...
- There is an anticipation that we all have that comes with change and transition...

Maybe you ***don't*** have a sense of eager expectation, but you have a sense of ***curiosity***, wondering what things are going to look like...

As we head into this new chapter in the life of this church, what I want to do for you this morning is give you a glimpse into what will be...

- As I was praying and processing about how to steward this time this morning on passing the baton Sunday, I feel like the Lord led me to **Colossians 1...**

If you have your Bibles, go ahead and turn to Colossians 1...

Colossians 1 contains an incredible prayer in which Paul shares that he's been praying for the church in Colosse...

- And if I could just give you **one hope** for what it looks like in the days ahead for us to build on the **faithful legacy** that has come before us, it would be that we embody what Paul prays here in **Colossians 1**...

Let's jump in and look at what Paul prays.

Colossians 1:9-14

Paul says in **verse 9**: For this reason also, since the day we heard this, we haven't stopped praying for you. We are **asking** that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,

Now, check this out... Paul's heard about the fruit that's being produced in and through the church of Colosse... He talks about this in **verses 3-7**...

- And that leads him to what he says here in **verse 9**: Paul says: **for this reason**, we haven't stopped praying for you... That you would continue to grow!

We're going to talk about what that growth looks like in a little bit, but I don't want you to miss this...

- What we see here is that we never arrive in the Christian life...
- We never get to a place where we can coast in the Christian life...
- *Here's the thing*: if we're not careful, what can happen is a subtle complacency that can creep in in the Christian life...
 - We have to understand that we never stop growing, the Christian life isn't static...

Ok, so now let's look at what Paul has been praying for them... What his desire for growth looks like...

Paul says that we have been praying that **you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding**...

- What Paul has in mind here is not some particular special direction for your life...
 - *Who you should marry, what job you should take, or if you should move...*

Paul's desire for them is to have **a deep and abiding understanding of Christ**, where they grow in their understanding of who Jesus is and how He impacts their everyday lives and the world around them...¹

Paul's like in the midst of all the good that's been happening, what I want for you, is to continue to grow deeper in your understanding of who Jesus is, what he's done, and **the depths of how He shapes all of your life!**

And what Paul shows us as he prays this is that this isn't something that we **work for**; it's something that we **receive from God!**

- Remember, Paul's praying here... He's asking God to do something that he can't...
- His request is: **We are asking that you may be filled...**

This is something that God does in us as we come to Him in faith!

- **Let me ask you this**: When's the last time we've gone to God and asked Him to *fill us with a deep and abiding understanding of Christ?!?*

Illustration: *I'm pretty handy, and I know my way around a hammer a little bit... But the reality is that I can't build a house...*

- *I could try, I would get out there, and I would grind, and it would take me forever, and I wouldn't end up with a house...*
- *It might be a tree fort, but not a house!*

¹ Douglas J. Moo, The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2008), 93.

- OR, I could go and find a builder and ask him to build me a house, he shows us and builds it, no problem...

I feel like this is a lot of us in the Christian life. For some of you, you're working for God, but you're not sitting **WITH** God, asking him to do what you can't!

- Some of you are tired...
- Others of you feel stagnant or stale in the Christian life...

When is the last time you sat with God and asked Him **to give you a deep and abiding understanding of Christ?**

- For some of you, you're coasting or complacent, and you can't figure out why the fire of your faith has gone down, why you're not as passionate as you used to be...
- It's because you're not coming to God in faith, asking Him to fill you with a deeper understanding of who Jesus is and the implications that He has on your life!

Paul starts his prayer not by praying that the Colossians would do anything, **but** that they would be **filled** with something... **A deep and abiding understanding of Christ?**

Now, Paul's going to show us why this is so important...

Look at verse 10:

10 so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

Paul's showing us that growth in our **understanding of Christ** is what gives way to **walking in the ways of Christ...**

IOW: When you grow in your understanding of what Jesus has been to you, the more that the things of Christ begin to flow through you!

- Where you have a Christ-centered perspective on how you should live in everyday life...

- And when you have this perspective, you will find that you begin to walk in ways that please God...
- You will bear fruit...

You will begin to become the things that Christ has been to you!

- **Understanding that Jesus doesn't just shape part of you, He shapes all of you!**

Examples:

- Love like Christ...
- Serve like Christ...
- Show compassion like Christ...
- Generous like Christ...
- View the church like Christ...

And with all of this comes growth!

Illustration: *I will never forget when I experienced hunting for the first time... I was hooked, I developed a deep love for it... Loved learning more about it, have learned a ton since I was a boy... Things come naturally in the woods...*

When you encounter Jesus, it changes everything... You begin to grow in the things of Jesus as you continue to look to Jesus...

What I want you to see is that a deep abiding understanding of Christ has to be the root for us to see the fruit...

This is why the gospel, the good news of the work of Jesus, isn't just the start of the Christian life, it is the essence of the Christian life...

- Paul shows us that we never get past the gospel...
 - For many of us, the gospel was a thing of the past...
 - Paul's showing us it's our source for today!

Now, is this easy? No! We are constantly up against a world that's trying to pull us away from the things of Jesus... Paul knows that, it's why he prays what he prays next in **verse 11**:

verse 11:

11 being **strengthened** with all **power**, according to his glorious might, Paul asks God to give the church **strength and power... WHY? so that** you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

Paul of all people knows that the Christian life isn't easy... It's hard... But endurance is possible as we continue to fix our eyes on Jesus!

- This is the heart of Paul's prayer: that we would fix our eyes on Jesus and ask God to fill us with a deeper understanding of Jesus, and that we would experience the power of Jesus!

Illustration: Cell phone on a wireless charger...

Some of you are here, and you lack **endurance, patience, and joy**...

- Listen to the way that you experience these things is through Jesus...
 - You see what awaits you because of Christ...
endurance in life
 - How patient God was with you... **patience in your life**
 - Jesus saved me from my sin. I can trust him with my circumstances... I can have hope that I am not alone...
joy in your life

And then Paul gives this incredible declaration as a reminder for us in **verse 13**, that ties it all together...

Verse 13: He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. **14** In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Walk through:

- He has rescued us from the domain of darkness
- He has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.
- In him, we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

*Some of you need to receive this for the first time today!

Why do I share all of this? Why this passage? **Because I believe that the key to the future of this church lies in where our eyes are fixed now!**

Conclusion