

Colossians 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Analysis

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. The purpose clause introduces *peripatēsai* (περιπατῆσαι, "to walk"), a common biblical metaphor for daily conduct. Walking "worthy" (*axiōs*, ἁγίως) means conduct matching identity—living consistently with calling as God's chosen people. This isn't earning salvation but expressing it.

"Unto all pleasing" (*eis pasan areskei an*, εἰς πᾶσαν ἀρεσκείαν) indicates comprehensive obedience, not selective compliance. Four present participles follow, describing continuous action: bearing fruit, increasing in knowledge, being strengthened, giving thanks. These aren't sequential stages but simultaneous aspects of mature Christian life. Fruitfulness in "every good work" shows authentic faith through visible transformation.

Historical Context

Ancient ethical systems (Stoicism, Epicureanism, Platonism) sought virtue through human effort and philosophical training. Paul presents a radically different model: transformation flows from relationship with God, empowered by His Spirit, aiming at His pleasure rather than human achievement or reputation. This redirects motivation from self-improvement to God-glorification.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. Does your daily conduct match your Christian identity, or is there disconnect between profession and practice?
2. What 'good works' currently demonstrate the gospel's transforming power in your life?
3. How do you pursue God's pleasure versus human approval in your decision-making?

Interlinear Text

περιπατῆσαι	ὕμᾱς	ἀξίως	τοῦ	κυρίου	εἰς	παντὶ
might walk	That ye	worthy	G3588	of the Lord	in	all
G4043	G5209	G516		G2962	G1519	G3956
ἀρεσκείαν	ἐν	παντὶ	ἔργῳ	ἀγαθῷ	καρποφοροῦντες	καὶ
pleasing	in	all	work	good	being fruitful	and
G699	G1722	G3956	G2041	G18	G2592	G2532
αὐξανόμενοι	εἰς	τὴν	ἐπιγνώσιν	τοῦ	θεοῦ	
increasing	in	G3588	the knowledge	G3588	of God	
G837	G1519		G1922		G2316	

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 4:1 (References Lord): I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Hebrews 13:21 (Sin): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

John 15:16 (Parallel theme): Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

1 John 3:22 (Sin): And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

Hebrews 13:16 (Good): But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

John 15:8 (Parallel theme): Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

1 Thessalonians 4:1 (References God): Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

Titus 3:14 (Good): And let our's also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful.

2 Peter 3:18 (References Lord): But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Micah 4:5 (References God): For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.