Introduction

“Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?” II Corinthians 11:28-29

Paul and Epaphras prayed that the church would stand firm.

I. Stand firm in all the will of God. Verse 12

Knowing the will of God doesn’t mean we will know everything about the future or all the details of our life, but we can see the big picture in Scripture.

We can know who Christ is and why he came.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.” Colossians 1:15-20

We can know God’s purpose for the church and his purpose for our life – to know him and to make him known.

“God has chosen to make know among the Gentiles, the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.” Colossians 1:27
When we get it, it makes a difference in how we live today.
Knowing the Scriptures is like having a blue print to guide you.

II. Stand firm mature in Christ.

The goal is to become mature in Christ.
“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.” Colossians 1:28-29

We need to keep growing spiritually.
“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6-7

We need to keep our eyes on Christ.
“Set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.” Colossians 3:1-17
Spiritual maturity affects all of our relationships. Colossians 3:18-4:1

Spiritual maturity brings wisdom. We will not fall prey to false teaching or Satan’s schemes.

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” Ephesians 4:14-16

III. Stand firm secure in Christ.

Where does security come from?

Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Failures will come in our life and ministry, but they need not be final.

• Onesimus – a runaway slave who becomes a brother in Christ.
• Mark – who once deserted Paul is now restored and faithful.
• Demas – who loved this present world, leaves Paul and goes to Thessalonica. II Timothy 4:10

“No amount of falls will really undo us if we keep picking ourselves up each time. We shall of course be very muddy and tattered children by the time we reach home. But the bathrooms are all ready, the towels put out, and the clean clothes in the airing cupboard. The only fatal thing is to lose one’s temper and give up. It is when we notice the dirt that God is most present in us; it is the very sign of his presence.” Letters of C.S. Lewis by W.H. Lewis

Paul urges Archippus to be faithful and finish the work that God has given him to do.

Each of us has been given an assignment from God too. We are to do it with all our heart, as serving the Lord. Colossians 3:17, 23
Conclusion

God’s grace be with you.
• His grace is sufficient for me.
• His grace is sufficient for you.

Stand firm!