



MONDAY 5 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1

Plug In...

Welcome to our latest series, the letter to the Colossians. [We return to Deuteronomy next term.]

It is really helpful to read big chunks of the Bible and also zero in on verses. Read the whole first chapter, Colossians 1.

Paul wrote this letter. As he addresses the Colossians he refers to them by their status *in Christ* (verse 1).

Chew It Over...

Always hard for us to do objectively, but how would you rate your overall holiness? How does Paul describe these Christians? Why are they described this way?

While we want to put to death sin in our lives, are you too depressed or down because of failures? How might your feelings reveal what you allow to govern your perception of your standing?

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God that He has re-labelled us because of Christ. Thank God that this truth is the most practical thing we have to combat on-going sin.



TUESDAY 6 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:1-4

Plug In...

The activity Paul says he is doing is a prayer of thanksgiving. Paul is hearing about the Colossians' faith which is producing love. This he knows is happening because they are in Christ. Therefore, he thanks the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Chew It Over...

Regardless of whether the Colossians are more or less 'saint-like' [remember the Corinthians, much less so than the Colossians!], Paul sees any white against a black canvas as the very work of God. Faith in Christ producing love for other Christians and the wider world does not occur randomly.

Look around, what do you see in the lives of others? Be surprised. Thank God.

[NB: Paul had never met the Colossians. He heard about them. And still he prays for them – *continually*.]

Prayer Suggestion

Stop. Notice. Thank God. Continue to pray about what you see.



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WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:5-8

Plug In...

Paul is seeing God produce faith and love in the Colossians and so thanks God for its emergence. Paul explains that part of the mechanism that God uses to cause faith and love to spring up is the 'hope' reserved in heaven. The language of 'stored up' speaks of treasure, it speaks of inheritance (v.12). The Father bestows inheritance on the son. Verse 3: God is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we are located *in* Christ, we inherit what He inherits. The treasures of heaven are given to Christ and so given to Christians. Christians live knowing this world is not the prize.

God is liberally spreading the right to inherit across the world. Notice Paul describing the gospel message in reproductive images. The gospel message is in motion, it is replicating across the world: from Jesus to the Apostles (1:1 – the apostle Paul by the will of God), to his dear Epaphras, to the Colossians, to others across the world.

Chew It Over...

If you are a Christian, you are part of the mechanism God has to move the gospel message from one place to another. God is scooping up people across the world.

Prayer Suggestion

Identify how and when, and from whom you learned the gospel message. Thank God that you heard it and truly understood God's grace (v.7). Pray about what to do now.



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THURSDAY 8 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:9-II

Plug In...

Paul has just thanked God for giving the Colossians faith in Jesus Christ and love for all the saints. His prayer is asking God to give more and more.

Two words from verse 9. *Praying*, a general term: talking that is directed to God.

Asking, a specific request that God intervenes in people's lives.

Chew It Over...

From the things Paul asks from God for the Colossians, what dangers in the future do they face? Consider each phrase. What intervention is Paul seeking?

[NB: Paul is consistent in praying for God's intervention in people's lives. This characteristic of Paul's prayers is something for us to grasp: [Romans 1:9](#); [1 Corinthians 1:4](#); [Ephesians 1:16](#); [Philippians 1:4](#); [1 Thessalonians 1:2](#); [2 Thessalonians 1:3](#); [2 Timothy 1:3](#); [Philemon 1:4](#).]

Prayer Suggestion

What have you seen, what have you heard? *For those reasons* (v.9a) you know what to pray to God about today.



FRIDAY 9 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:10-12

Plug In...

Verse 9 requests God to intervene with resources *so that* (v.10) certain fruit appears in the lives of other Christians: strength and power to *endure* circumstances; patience in the face of opposition or misfortune; and joy that God has qualified a people.

[NB: The Old Testament says the qualification is holiness – [Leviticus 11:44](#) “Be holy, because I am holy”.]

The fruit is such that nothing knocks down the Christian from their lofty status in Christ and what they will inherit.

Chew It Over...

Did you know such Divine power is available? One might not really *know* if they've never asked. By all means, continually ask – for you, for others – this is what God dispenses.

Prayer Suggestion

May God reveal to us knowledge of His will; fill us with spiritual thinking and wisdom to apply to life. May this issue in life, that we receive power to persevere, endure tough circumstances, have patience in the face of opposition. May we know the gift the Father has allotted to us.



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WEEKEND 10-11 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:13-14

Plug In...

There are two kingdoms and each a sphere controlled by an authority. The kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. It is the Father who has enacted our transfer from one to the other. It is in the Son that we are released into the kingdom of light, dominated by the power of the Spirit vv.9-11. It can happen because of the forgiveness of sins.

Chew It Over...

So often we think we make the choice to join the kingdom of light. Almost tricking ourselves that our smarts to pick the right 'faith' is the key to unlocking the door (we redeem ourselves). This passage shows that God comes to the door of the kingdom of darkness, does what is necessary to turn the key (from the outside) and releases us, transports us, transfers us to the kingdom.

Only by apprehending what these verses say do we turn in consistent prayer and praise to the Father for what *He* has done.

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God for what He has done through Jesus, fully acknowledging that He was under no obligation to act.