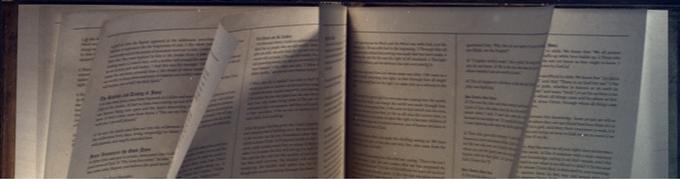


A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Understanding Jesus



WEEK 2 STUDY GUIDE

BY: PASTOR WALTER DORT

JANUARY 16-20, 2023



CENTRAL
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Monday, January 16, 2023

Read: Colossians 1:9-14

Scripture Verse: *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray and make requests for you, that ye may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.” Colossians 1:9*

Today's Thought:

We have seen the importance of prayer and the different facets of prayer. Now we are going to talk about the responsibility of Christians to pray for each other. In Acts of the Apostles chapter 2:42, prayer was an integral part of the activities of Christians. In this verse, the Bible tells us that the disciples persevered in the teaching of the apostles, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers. We see here, the church of the time of the apostles rested on four pillars. Prayer was one of the most important pillars for the spiritual growth of Christians. Anyone who wants to grow spiritually must spend time in prayer and it is our duty to pray for each other.

In Colossians 1:9 which is the subject of this study, we see that Paul kept praying for the Christians of Colossae and those of Laodicea. What was the basic purpose of these prayers? In his prayers, Paul asked for them to have the knowledge of the will of God. Knowing and doing the will of God should be the purpose of our existence. We must be like Jesus every day. To resemble Jesus must be the desire of our heart; for this Paul prayed for them to have knowledge of the will of God. He who does not know what God wants cannot please God. Paul also prayed for them to have wisdom and spiritual understanding. Wisdom and spiritual intelligence should be the quest of all Christians. In other words, the Christian must have discernment of the word of God, be able to understand what is good and pleasing to God, to understand God's guideline. The Christian must know how to direct his walk towards his heavenly vocation. The Christian must direct his steps towards the hope reserved for him in heaven. The apostle prayed incessantly that their practical walk responds to the purpose of their existence. Being raised with Christ they must seek the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of his Father.

Therefore, Paul wanted them to be firm Christians, rooted and grounded in the knowledge of the will of God and to throw off all the rudiments of

man and come to the perfect knowledge of the word of God. May they be filled with “the knowledge of the will of God in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.”

This must also be our daily prayer because we are not different from the Christians of Colossae and those of Laodicea. We face all kinds of problems, all kinds of temptations, we must pray for each other in order to stay in God's redemptive plan. To live in intimate communion with God and with our brothers and sisters. Today, if you have a prayer to say, what should that prayer be?

Heavenly Father, you said in your word, “My people perish for lack of knowledge.” I want to live for the glory of your name. Enrich me with the knowledge of your word. Keep me so close to you and to your word, Lord, that no one, nothing, absolutely nothing can come between us. I have been convinced that no knowledge, no wisdom, no peace of mind, no joy, no love, resides anywhere except within you. All my desire is to do your will, to serve you and to have a good knowledge of your word. I know I will never achieve my goal by myself; Lord, I give myself to you. I know that I am in skillful hands, teach me your word, show me your will and lead me faithfully in your path.

- What does Acts 2:42 tell us about the early Christians?
- What was the basic purpose of Paul’s prayer for the Christians in Colossae in verse 9?
- What is the purpose of our existence?
- What does discernment allow?

Further Reading: Hebrews 10:19–25

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

Read: Colossians 1:9-14

Scripture Verse: *“To walk worthily of the Lord unto all pleasing, bearing fruit in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” Colossians 1:10*

Today's Thought:

Have you ever taken the time to pray for others? We have seen that Paul took the time to pray for the Christians in Colossae and those in Laodicea. His prayers were very specific. He prayed that they would be filled with the knowledge of God's will, with all wisdom and spiritual understanding. The apostle amplifies his prayer for the church. He prays that they walk worthily of the Lord. Christians in Colossae must conduct themselves, behave, direct themselves in a way that pleases God. We read in Ephesians 4:1 *“As a prisoner for the Lord, I therefore urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.”*

The Christian has received his call from God, he must behave according to the call he has received from God. Christians belong to God; they must walk according to the will of their Master. He must recognize the supremacy of his master's will over his will. He must please God; this implies that he must have God's approval. The Christian must do his best to present himself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth. His whole life belongs to Christ. As we read in 1 Thessalonians 5:23, *“May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* The Christian's life no longer belongs to him. His life is indivisible; he cannot say that the lower members of his body belong to Christ but that the upper members are his or of the world. Far from there! The Christian must live so that God may find his pleasure in him; his will is to do the will of God.

As a Christian, when you know the will of the Lord, it will produce fruit. Fruits are the result of a good walk with God. The knowledge of the will of God consists in watering from God, which will produce fruits in all kinds of good works. This is the case with any well-watered and maintained tree. In chapter 3:12-17, the apostle Paul mentions the fruits: benevolence, humility, gentleness, patience, mutual help, etc. This is what Paul wanted for the Christians of Colossae and those of Laodicea; and this is what he asked for in his prayers for them: *“Growth through the knowledge of*

God." He prayed for their progress.

The Christian life is not static; but it is dynamic. The Christian must walk in order to progress spiritually and emotionally. Paul never tired of praying for the churches. We too should pray for our spiritual growth and the spiritual growth of our brothers and sisters. Ask God for wisdom, understanding and discernment of his word. Spiritual growth comes from knowing God. To know God is to have an intimate relationship with God; it is letting God act in our place; it is allowing ourselves to be influenced by God in our words, our actions and our decisions. So, to know God must be our desire day and night.

Heavenly Father, thank you for your word. Thank you for calling me to be your servant. All my desire is to please you. Help me to walk worthily of you, to bow under your authority and to stay firm on the path that your Son Jesus Christ has marked out for me. Help me to present myself to you as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth

- What was the apostle's Paul prayer for the Christians of Colossae in verse 10?
- How should the life of the servant of God be?
- What does the apostle Paul tell us in 1 Thessalonians 5:23 regarding our life?
- What is the result of a good walk with God?
- What are these fruits?
- How is the life of the Christian?

Further Reading: Philippians 1:27-30

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

Read: Colossians 1:9-14

Scripture Verse: *"Strengthened with all power, according to the might of his glory, unto all patience and longsuffering with joy;" Colossians 1:11*

Today's Thought:

In the previous verse we saw that the Christian should walk worthily of the Lord, be pleasing to him and bear fruit. So, to walk worthily of the Lord, to bear fruit and to grow in the knowledge of God, there is one thing necessary, "That is the strength of the Lord." In verse 11, the apostle Paul asks the Christians in Colossae and Laodicea to be strong in every way. The Christian must be spiritually, morally and emotionally strong to face all the attacks of the enemy. The devil's plan is to discourage us, to devitalize us, to make us impatient in expectation of the glorious return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His plan too is to steal our joy and make us sad.

Therefore, we must draw our strength from the Lord. We read in Isaiah, 40:29 *"He gives strength to the weary and increases the strength of the weak."* The Lord is the source of our strength and deliverance. He is our strength and our defense; he is our salvation. When we have the strength of the Lord, we are full of confidence and have nothing to fear. *"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation."* Isaiah 12:2. Always and in all circumstances, we should seek the strength of the Lord. Renewing our strength depends on our trust and our walk with the Lord. *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint."* Isaiah 40:31. The Christian is strengthened by a force that comes from above, from the power of God.

So, we who believe in Jesus Christ are beneficiaries of this power. It is this infinite power in Christ which gives all strength in all circumstances. Force that helps us lead a harmonious life with God. Isn't that a reason to rejoice in the Lord? This does not mean that we will not have tribulation in this world, a certain fact is that we are more than overcomers because the one who is the source of our strength has already overcome the world. *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble; but take heart! I have*

overcome the world." John 16:33. Through faith in Jesus Christ we have victory and are strengthened by power from on high. Sorrows, worry, afflictions, oppositions and difficulties of all kinds abound in our walk with God, but we must patiently wait for the glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. This is what makes us happy despite all we must endure; a joy that comes from our hope in Jesus Christ. My brothers and sisters: *"Rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed."* 1 Peter 4:13.

Lord, thank you for revealing to me in your word that you are my strength. In good days and bad, you are always there to strengthen me. In your love, strengthen me physically, spiritually, morally and emotionally in order to overcome all the attacks of the devil. Strengthen me while I patiently wait for the glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Where does the strength of the Christian come from?
- Why should we be strong spiritually, morally and emotionally?
- What is the devil's plan?
- How will the strength of the Lord serve us?

Further Reading: Ephesians 6:10-11

Thursday, January 19, 2023

Read: Colossians 1:9-14

Scripture Verse: *"Giving thanks unto the Father, who made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light;" Colossians 1:12*

Today's Thought:

In the preceding verses, we have seen a whole set of requests that Paul addressed to God in his prayers for the Christians of Colossae and those of Laodicea. Since they are beneficiaries of God's grace, now the apostle encourages them to thank the Father for having saved them by grace. Therefore, the heavenly inheritance from which we benefit is the gift of the Father in Jesus Christ. We should not consider eternal life as a merit. Like something we worked for. Our salvation is a gift from God; we read: *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith —and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God; not by works, so that no one can boast."* Ephesians 2:8-9. To be a child of God is a gift from God in his Son Jesus Christ. We are to glorify, exalt, magnify and thank God for having a share in the heavenly inheritance.

God in his love has taken us from very far. Sin has taken us away from God, it has made us ugly, dirty and lost. We were Satan's slave, his property. He did what he wanted with us. He has led us into evil, into lies, into theft, into adultery, into fornication, into heinous crimes and a whole lot of things. He dragged us away from the face of God. *"We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all."* Isaiah 53:6. We were dead by our trespasses and by our sins, we lived according to the course of this world, according to the will of Satan, according to the power of the devil. We were Satan's prey; but Christ, by his death on the cross, snatched us out of the mouth of Satan. God has laid on Jesus all our sins and all our iniquities.

Since we accept Christ his Son, we have become free, and we are now in the light. We are children of God, the temple of God. We pass from darkness to light, from death to life, from illegitimate son to legitimate son. He tore up the deed that condemned us. *"Having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."* Colossians 2:14-15. We are

now joint heirs with Christ. *"Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory."* Romans 8:17. He transported us to the kingdom of the Son of his love. What Grace! What love! Aren't we right to thank him?

Lord, thank you for saving me by grace. I don't work to be the beneficiary. Thank you for taking me this far to be part of your family. Thank you for snatching me from the devil's mouth. Now I have passed from death to life, from darkness to light, from condemnation to freedom. May my life be for you a life of praise and worship in recognition of what you have done for me on the cross.

- Why should we thank God?
- How should we design our salvation?
- What did Satan do with us before we repented?
- What have we become by accepting Jesus?

Further Reading: Romans 8:14-18

Friday, January 20, 2023

Read: Colossians 1:9-14

Scripture Verse: *"Who delivered us out of the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love; in whom we have our redemption, the forgiveness of our sins." Colossians 1:13-14*

Today's Thought:

As we said before, we were under the power of the evil one. He mistreated us, oppressed us; it was impossible to escape his clutches in our own strength. All his weight was on us. In verse 13 we see that the power of God has been manifested on our behalf. He used his omnipotence to snatch us from the mouth of Satan to put us in possession of his Kingdom. God's love, compassion and mercy for us have no boundaries. *"God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* Romans 5:8.

Everything is made possible thanks to his Son Jesus Christ who put our sins and our pains on his back. We also read in Isaiah 53:4-5 *"Surely he took our pains and bore our sufferings, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."* Jesus laid down all our debts, cares, and burdens and set us free to enjoy all heavenly bliss. In Jesus Christ we have the remission of our hidden sins and faults. The devil's plan is to accuse us, to make us feel guilty, to hurt us, to make us realize that we are not free, we are indebted to him. We must say with certainty: No! We have nothing to do with Satan. Jesus did everything for us on the cross to free us and connect us with his Father. Our freedom is won by the blood of Jesus Christ *"You were bought with a price; do not become slaves to human beings."* 1 Corinthians 7:23.

What Jesus did for us on the cross is priceless, so we must take our walk with God very seriously. What we must remember is that Christ is sufficient in our life for our salvation, for our justification and for our sanctification. We do not need another mediator to bring us closer to God. Any other attempt, any other trick used to draw closer to God is null and void. We must have a good knowledge of the word of God in order to move away from all beliefs, from all ideologies that deny or diminish the preeminence of Jesus Christ as the one and only Savior of the world. My brothers and sisters, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no oth-

er name under heaven given to mankind whereby we must be saved.? Acts 4:12. Seize your salvation and hold fast in Jesus Christ!

Lord, thank you for showing me your love in your Son Jesus, when I was still a sinner. Jesus, thank you, you were pierced for my transgressions, you were crushed for my iniquities; the punishment that brought me peace was upon you, and by your wounds I am healed. You have settled my debts. By your formidable power you have snatched me from the mouth of Satan to put me in possession of your kingdom. Thank you for freeing me! Thank you for this great gift!

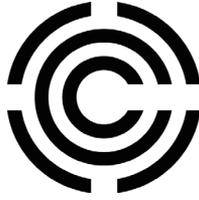
- When did God prove his love for us?
- How did God show his omnipotence and love towards us?
- What were the chastisements (Isaiah 53:4-5) Jesus suffered for us?
- What should be our attitude in the face of this great sacrifice?

Further Reading: Romans 5:6-11

I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1

*Oh look! Today is Friday! Saturday and Sunday are coming!
Don't forget your appointment with your Lord in his house!*

NOTES



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