

Weekly Study Guide

The week of February 22, 2015

Daily Readings

These readings repeat to provide additional opportunity to learn and reflect on their content.

Monday	Colossians 1:1-8	Tuesday	Colossians 1:9-14	Wednesday	Colossians 1:15-20
Thursday	Colossians 1:1-8	Friday	Colossians 1:9-14	Saturday	Colossians 1:15-20

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *The Homecoming*

Next week's readings: Colossians 1:21-2:5

We learned this week that God has rescued us from darkness and brought us to the Kingdom of Jesus. But to be brought into the Kingdom of Jesus means that we need to be given peace with God, in spite of our own sin and rebellion. Join us next week to learn about the depth of God's grace that "reconciles" us to himself.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Colossians is a letter from an early Christian leader named Paul, and his apprentice Timothy, to a group of Christians in the ancient city of Colossae. What was the last personal letter you wrote or received that wasn't an email?</p>
Learn	<p>The opening section of this letter is rather complicated. Read through Colossians 1:1-20 out loud and share your first impressions with one another. What strikes you when you read through this for the first time?</p> <p>Paul begins this letter by telling the Colossians that he is praying prayers for thanksgiving for them. What is he thankful for? (vv. 4-5)</p> <p>Faith, hope, and love are characteristics of the Christian life that are sometimes listed together. Read vv. 3-5 again. How would you say that faith, hope, and love are related to one another? Are they similar? Different? Do they contribute to one another somehow?</p> <p>If faith and love come from hope, Paul says that hope comes from the Gospel (v. 5-6). How does the Gospel give hope? What do you think most people are hoping for in life? What kind of hope comes from the good news of Jesus?</p> <p>In addition to prayers of thanks, Paul says in v. 9 that they are also praying for certain things for the Colossians.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What are they praying for? (Read the next few verses for a full description.)• What does Paul pray for the Colossians to be filled with?• What does he pray that they will do? <p>The energy behind the Colossians' faith, hope, and love is God's. His Gospel gives them hope (v. 5) and is growing and bearing fruit (v. 6). He will fill them with spiritual wisdom and understanding (v. 9). God will strengthen them for endurance and patience (v. 11). God has welcomed them into his family and his inheritance (v. 12). God has rescued them from the dominion of darkness and transferred them to the Kingdom of Jesus (v.13). It is not surprising that this section ends with worship - a description of the glory and supremacy of God's Savior Jesus. Read Colossians 1:15-20 and make a list of the descriptions of Christ.</p> <p>How might it feel different to think of God as the creator of godly change in your life or to think of yourself as the energy behind your own growth? How might this change your approach to growing as a Christian?</p>
Apply and Pray	<p>As we read Colossians together, we'll find a variety of specific and practical guidance later in this letter. But here at the start, it all starts with prayer. Try praying some prayers like the ones modeled here - both as a group and alone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pray for hope in the Gospel that generates faith in Christ and love for all the saints (vv. 4-5).• Pray that you will be filled with spiritual wisdom and understanding (v. 9).• Pray that you will walk worthily of the Lord, growing and bearing fruit, and being strengthened for patience and endurance with joy (vv. 10-12).