

Weekly Study Guide

The week of March 8, 2015

Daily Readings

Monday	Colossians 2:6-15	Tuesday	Colossians 2:16-23	Wednesday	Colossians 3:1-11
Thursday	Philippians 4:4-13	Friday	Romans 8	Saturday	Romans 12

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week's message: *Rescued for a New Life*

Next week's readings: Colossians 3:12-Colossians 4

Join us next week as we conclude our series on Colossians. We will be exploring how we can grow in living out the new life Jesus rescued us for in our closest relationship, and how we can share Jesus' heart to see others rescued by him.

first lutheran church

4000 linden street • white bear lake, mn • 55110 • 651.429.5349 • flcwb.org

Group Discussion

Connect	<p>Over the last ten to twenty years, how has your use of technology changed? How do you think the “technological revolution” has impacted you and/or your family? Positively? Negatively?</p>
Learn	<p>In Colossians 3, Paul helps the church develop a clearer vision of what it means for Jesus to change their lives as they trust and follow Him. Paul contrasts practices that represent their old lives in “which they once lived” (3:7), with the new life they have in Christ (3:5-14). Read Colossians 3:1-14 out loud together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Make a list together that contrasts the character of the old life with the new life. How do the characteristics of the old life bring harm to human life?◆ How do you think human life and relationships would be better if people lived more consistently with the new life found in Christ?◆ Why does Paul say we are called to put to death the practices of the old life? What are we to set our mind and hearts on?◆ Discuss the idea that the Christian life is not about a list of “don’ts,” but is instead about trusting what we have been given in Christ. <p>In Colossians 2:8, Paul warns the church to not be taken captive through “hollow” and “deceptive” philosophies rather than by Christ. Read Colossians 2:16-23.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Why do you think Paul uses the image of “shadows” to talk about trusting in philosophies and traditions that are not based in Christ?◆ In verse 23, Paul says that human traditions and regulations “lack no value” in restraining sensual indulgence. How can religious traditions and regulations be hollow when it comes to changing our lives to reflect the character of Christ?◆ Read what Jesus said about the deceptive power of religious traditions in Mark 7:5-23. In your experience, how would you explain the difference between trusting in religion and trusting in Christ? <p>Throughout this passage of Colossians, Paul does more than just warn us against being taken captive. He wants us to know how our lives can be rescued and rooted in the reality of Christ. Read Colossians 2:6-15.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ How do you see being rooted in Christ connected with the good fruit God wants to bring in our life?◆ How is trusting in Jesus to work on our behalf different from trying hard to change?◆ Discuss the idea that we develop deeper roots in Christ as the truth of Christ goes deeper into us. What deceptive ideas do you battle inside that tell you that the Gospel is too good to be true?
Apply	<p>In your life right now, where are you, on a scale between one and ten, in overflowing with frustration and/or overflowing with joy? Why? What are some ways you think you can grow in trusting and setting your mind and heart on Jesus?</p>
Pray	<p>Spend some time sharing prayer requests together and praying for one another to grow in trusting the power of Christ in your lives.</p>