

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S 4th St., Harrisburg, PA 17101

Tuesday Bible Study: Colossians / September 21, 2021

Opening Prayer Resource:

ACTS

A–Adoration C–Confession T-Thanksgiving S-Supplication

Outline **1:1-14** The Fruit of the Gospel

1-2 Greeting

1-14 Thanksgiving & Prayer

3-4 Paul & the Prison Epistles – The Smart Guide to the Bible Series; by Kathy Collard Miller;

Thomas Nelson

When we are concerned about someone, especially if we fear they are starting to turn away from God, our natural tendency is to tell them everything they are doing wrong and what they should change. But Paul didn't do that *here*... People are most encouraged to do the right thing when we express gratitude for them... Giving thanks and even letting the person know how we are thanking God for them could do more to influence good behavior than constantly telling them the right thing to do.

7-8

Paul doesn't mind giving credit where credit is due. He wasn't the "spiritual father" of those believers like he was with so many other groups he wrote to, like the Philippians. He couldn't take credit for their growth. But instead of being jealous of someone else who was having an impact, he gladly credited Epaphras... Jealousy and envy are Satan's tools for dividing the body of Christ.

12-14 The Mighty & The Mysterious: A Study of Colossians by Heidi Goehmann; Concordia Publishing

House

IN CHRIST, YOU ARE ENOUGH

We live in a world full of thumbs-up emojis. We also live in a world of "Do more, be better, you don't know enough." We need to hear the truth over and over again. Listen to these words. They are true for you, as they were for the Colossians: In Christ, you are enough. It's spiritually and emotionally grounding to remember the truth:

WE ARE ENOUGH IN CHRIST.

Paul gives thanks for the Colossians because of who they are in connection to Christ...

Paul prays that they give thanks for one another for the same reason: they share an identity; they have been qualified by God *in Christ*. This is the foundation of their relationship as believers, and it informs their worldview as they share life together...

We can map the passage like this:

QUALIFIED – DELIVERED – TRANSFERRED – REDEEMED – FORGIVEN

Questions for Personal Reflection

Colossians & Philemon: 8 Studies for Individuals and Groups: N.T. Wright For Everyone Bible Study Guides; InterVarsity Press

Look over Paul's prayer in verses 9-12. What would it mean for someone to pray these things for you? Think of specific areas where you need those prayers.

Who do you know that needs your prayers modeled on verses 9-12?

The climax of Paul's prayers is that young Christians will learn the art of thanksgiving. What Paul most wants to see growing in the church as a sign of healthy Christian life on the way to maturity, is gratitude to God for the extraordinary things He's done in Jesus and the remarkable things He is continuing to do in the world and in their lives. Spontaneous gratitude of this kind is a sign that they are coming to know and love the true God. When, why, and how do you most frequently thank God?

Memory Verses *The Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia Publishing House*

1:11-14 Transferred to God's Kingdom