

Zion Lutheran Church, 15 S 4<sup>th</sup> St., Harrisburg, PA 17101

## **Tuesday Bible Study: Colossians / October 5, 2021**

**Opening Prayer Resource:** *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son our Savior. Amen.

### **Outline**

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

**2:1-7** God's Treasure Revealed

**2:8-3:4** Complete in Christ

### **2:6**

*The Mighty & The Mysterious: A Study of Colossians by Heidi Goehmann; Concordia Publishing House*

Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord = *the salvation pilgrimage*

so walk in Him = *the daily pilgrimage*

*Pilgrimage* is a fancy word for "journey." But it fits well when we talk about journeying with Jesus. A pilgrim is a worshipper, a devotee, a follower. Through our Baptism, Christ invites us into His family and tells us who we are in Him. Our salvation pilgrimage is completed right then and there, at our Baptism. We *received* Christ – past tense. He saved us and took us safely through the waters to the end of our salvation journey.

But Paul encourages the Colossians and us to also walk in our daily lives with Christ. It is a *daily pilgrimage* because we follow our Savior on this daily journey. We worship Him through every step, at every bend in the road, and we remain devoted to Him, connected to the one who gave us our identity.

### **2:13-14**

*Paul & the Prison Epistles – The Smart Guide to the Bible Series; by Kathy Collard Miller; Thomas Nelson.* **The quote below from Max Lucado, He Chose the Nails**

Between His hand and the wood there was a list. A long list. A list of our mistakes: our lusts and lies and greedy moments and prodigal years. A list of our sins.

Dangling from the cross is an itemized catalogue of your sins. The bad decisions from last year. The bad attitudes of last week. There, in broad daylight for all of heaven to see, is a list of your mistakes.

The list God has made, however, cannot be read. The words can't be deciphered. The mistakes are covered. The sins are hidden. Those at the top are hidden by His hand; those down the list are covered by His blood. Your sins are "blotted out" by Jesus.

## 2:14-15

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

For the Romans every crucifixion of a rebel king, even a strange one like Jesus, was another symbolic triumph over Rome, and hence, in Jewish eyes, for the power of paganism as a whole... On the cross, Paul declares, *God* was celebrating *his* triumph over the principalities and powers that though it was the other way around. Paul never gets tired of relishing the glorious paradox of the cross: God's weakness overcoming human strength. God's folly overcoming human wisdom.

### **Questions for Personal Reflection**

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

Whatever new ideas someone comes up with, Paul says, this is the acid test: Is it "in line with the king" (v. 2:8)? Does it have Jesus, the Messiah, the Lord, as its center and focus? If not, beware.

What practical steps can a Christian take to "watch out" (v. 2:8) and not be captured by false ideas?

*The Mighty & The Mysterious: A Study of Colossians by Heidi Goehmann; Concordia Publishing House*

How does the Church bring order to our individual and communal walks of faith?

Whether we are part of a local congregation or not, we all struggle with connecting authentically to those in a local congregation. It may be difficult to be honest with yourself about this, but what keeps you from diving more intimately into a local manifestation of the Body of Christ at present?

Name at least one thing people miss out on if they are disconnected from the local church?

What "do not" or "don't touch" commands are common in the Christian Church today? How can we walk with Jesus in a way that is a good witness without also making regulations more important than faith in Jesus?

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

2:11-14     The New Circumcision

2:16-17     Shadow and Substance

*Article on Role of Mary in Christianity in Lutheran Tradition (Discussion Follow-up)*

<https://witness.lcms.org/2017/mary-mary-quite-contrary/>