

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

Tuesday Bible Study: Colossians / October 12, 2021

Opening Prayer Resource: *Service Book & Hymnal, Hymn #257*

God's word is our great heritage, And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age Be this our chief endeavor;
Through life it guides our way, In death it is our stay: Lord grant while time shall last,
The Church may hold it fast Throughout all generations. Amen.

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.” - Martin Luther

Outline

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

2:8-3:4 Complete in Christ

3:5-17 Old Clothes, New Clothes

3:1-4

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

We know that being in Christ means Jesus has already found us. So it seems a little weird that we are supposed to keep seeking. And yet this is part of the mystery of Christian life. Sometimes we call this “the now and not yet.”

We're saved, and we're being saved.

We're in Christ, and we continue to seek Christ.

The war has been won, but we're in the spiritual warfare clean-up.

Our life is with Christ, but it is hidden, so our walk with Him for now is mysterious.

We know we are already complete through Jesus' death and resurrection,
yet we grow each day.

This “now and not yet” is why even Paul, the great missionary, evangelist, and apostle, speaks of continuing to seek the things that are above during his own life.

3:8-10

Paul & the Prison Epistles – The Smart Guide to the Bible Series; by Kathy Collard Miller; Thomas Nelson.

Commentators say that Paul's metaphor of “taking off and putting on clothes” is a reference to the common practice of that day when a new believer was baptized. When he went under the water he was wearing old clothes. He took those clothes off and put on a white robe after coming up out of the water-signifying a new life and new nature...

Some people think sexual sin is more important or worse than the sins named in verse 8, but with God all sin is equal. We can't excuse our wrong verbal reactions toward others because we think such a "mistake" isn't the same as sexual sin. Actually, they are equally wrong in God's sight. So let's be careful to look at sin as God does: as destructive.

3:12-14 ... Quote from Philip Yancey, *What's So Amazing About Grace?*

At last I understood: in the final analysis, forgiveness is an act of faith. By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am. By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out.

3:17

Some people think, *Well, this part of my life or this particular activity isn't really of interest to God. I don't need to bother Him about that. But when I do something for Him that is religious, then I'll be sure to seek the Lord and His help.* NOT! Paul says specifically that everything we do, whether it's spoken or acted, is to be done in God's power and for His glory.

Questions for Personal Reflection

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

1) Paul balances the negatives of the old life of sin with the positives of new life in Christ. What is lacking when a Christian community denounces those things which should be "put off" without the corresponding emphasis on those things which should be "put on"?

2) Verse 16 portrays believers teaching one another, exhorting (insistently encouraging) one another and singing to God with grateful hearts. How does your own Christian fellowship practice each of the three?

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3) Consider what Paul says (Col. 3:5-12) in light of the fact that Jesus is Lord over our lives and Lord over all. Contemplate how Jesus is working transformation in your life in the following three realms:

Your mind- how is Jesus shaping your mind and fixing it on Him?

Your heart- what is God molding and softening in your heart?

Your actions- how is Jesus showing you that He is Lord of all you do and own? How is he transforming your view of your pocketbook, your home, your vocations?

The Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia Publishing House

Bible Memory Verses & Quote from Luther's Small Catechism

3:1-4 Glory Above

What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and rise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.