

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

INTRODUCTION: Tuesday Bible Study: Colossians / Beginning September 14, 2021

Resources

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

Interpretation (A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching): Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon by Ralph R Martin; John Knox Press

The Lutheran Study Bible; Concordia Publishing House

The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Colossians & Philemon by John MacArthur; The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago

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

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

Map

Below is a link to a site with maps and pictures of Colossae

<https://ashleydfarmer.wordpress.com/tag/colossae/>

Date & Authorship

c 60 AD The Lutheran Study Bible; Concordia Publishing House

Paul the Apostle Interpretation (A Bible Commentary for Teaching & Preaching): Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon by Ralph R Martin; John Knox Press

“The epistle to the Colossians belongs to a group of Pauline letters known traditionally as the Imprisonment Epistles. The reason for the name is simply the fact that four of the letters give evidence that he was “in bonds” when he wrote: Ephesians 3:1, 4:1,6:20; Colossians 4:3,10,18; Philippians 1:7,13,14; Philemon 1,9.”

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

- 1:1-14 The Fruit of the Gospel
- 1:15-29 Christ Supreme
- 2:1-7 God’s Treasure Revealed
- 2:8-3:4 Complete in Christ
- 3:5-17 Old Clothes, New Clothes
- 3:18-4:1 The Christian Household
- 4:2-18 Together in Prayer

Purpose of the Letter

The Lutheran Study Bible; Concordia Publishing House

“To guide the Colossian congregation away from heresy and into the truth about Jesus and His saving work.”

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

“Paul was concerned that *the Colossians* were beginning to be pulled away from true faith in Christ. Regardless of the impact of Paul’s letter, this competing philosophy would continue and eventually turn into what became known as Gnosticism. This heresy of Jewish, Greek, and pagan threads if thought that Paul contended with had these distinguishing points (although not all commentators believe that there was a definitive heresy being taught):

1. It stressed the need for observing Old Testament laws and ceremonies...
2. It taught that believers had to know some special knowledge in order to be included.
3. Angels were worshipped as mediators between men and God.
4. It believed only its own converts were true believers and they were given the distinction of special privileges and a state of ‘perfection.’
5. It denied the deity of Christ.”

Questions for Personal Reflection

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

Possible Planks in the Raft of Our World View

Who am I and where did I come from?

Do I have a purpose?

What does a healthy family look like?

Where do things and people get their value from?

1. Take time to consider the planks in your raft – your worldview – today. How would you answer the questions listed above?
2. What are some factors that have influenced the planks of your worldview? Perhaps something you’ve been taught, something you’ve experienced, or relationships you’ve had?

Foundation of Our Worldview, According to Colossians:

Jesus is all we need for salvation.

God’s Word is all we need for understanding.

We are not alone on this pilgrimage. Jesus goes before us, and the Body of Christ – the Church – is all around us.

Memory Verses The Lutheran Study Bible, Concordia Publishing House

1:11-14 Transferred to God’s Kingdom

1:15-20 Hymn of Christ

2:11-14 Shadow & Substance

3:1-4 Glory Above