

Groups: Week beginning 6th February 2023

How does the Father qualify us to share in the ‘inheritance of the saints’?

Do you see yourself as one who has been rescued? Why or why not? Do we have a lot to be thankful for?

From our study today in Colossians what lessons could you put into practice? (Commit yourself to putting into practice this week at least one lesson learnt.)

Conclude your time together in prayer.

Study 1: Prayer and Thanksgiving

Readings: Colossians 1:1 – 14

Do you give thanks to others, to God? How often: daily, weekly, occasionally or rarely? What are some of the things, people or events for which you give thanks?

Read Colossians 1:1 – 14:

Most commentators believe that Paul wrote this letter during his time of imprisonment in Rome. Unlike the other churches to which Paul wrote, the church in Colossae was not founded by Paul, but most likely by Epaphras (v7). Paul is writing to people he had not met personally, yet his letter still expresses a warmth and affection for his fellow Christians.

No matter what situation Paul is in his first response is thanks. What is your first response?

Do you tend to focus on the positives or the negatives?

What does Paul give thanks for in the Colossians? v3 & 4
Do you see these characteristics in others? Give examples of how you see these?

How do these characteristics relate to the gospel they heard?
V5 How does security encourage the growth of these characteristics?

In v6 we are told that all over the world this Gospel is bearing fruit, what do you think this fruit is? Do you think the gospel is still bearing fruit? Give some examples.

Paul says he “always thanks” when he prays? When you pray do you just ask God, or do you stop to remember God’s answers and actions with thanksgiving? How has God answered some of your recent prayers?

How does this prescription to give thanks help when faced with uncertainty (cf Phil. 4:6)?

What does Paul pray for the Christians at Colossae in v9? Why do you think Paul prayed this? How might it relate to what Paul knows about these people from Epaphras?

How does knowing God’s will help us to live lives pleasing to God?

Paul gives four things that are pleasing to God in v10 -12:

- Bearing fruit
- Growing in the knowledge of God
- Being strengthened by God
- Joyfully giving thanks

Discuss each of these. Why do you think these please God?