

HOME CHURCH

FOR DISCUSSION:

Colossians 1:1-8

1. Paul is giving thanks in the opening of his letter. How do we practice giving thanks for people in our lives, and in particular with those in the church family? What can we learn from Paul in this regard?
2. Talk about the role of love in this passage.
3. If you have time: We tend to gloss over the triad—faith, hope, and love—because we've heard the words so often. But they are the marks of real spiritual life. Look up these passages and discover how the three words (faith, hope and love) are related to one another and are manifested in a believer's life—Romans 5:2-5; Galatians 5:5-6; 1 Thesalonians 1:2-3, 5:8; Hebrews 10:22-24 and 1 Peter 1:3-5, 22.
4. One author writes, "Heresies (such as the one at Colosse) are local and harmful, but truth is universal and helpful." What are common universal claims we believe today? What are the commonalities for such claims?

PRAYER:

APRIL 26, 2020

COLOSSIANS

THE KING AND THE COLLECTIVE:
CHRIST, CREATION, COSMOS

Are you feeling trapped in your house, your mind, and your body? Paul, in his letter to the Colossians, shares with us from prison how based on reunion with the Creator and Creation, we can unlock the door and explore the contours of being an alternative community. Can you see yourself as part of a community where God is king instead of our various ideologies?

Colossians 1:1-8 (NET Bible)

Salutation

¹ From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² to the saints, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, at Colossae. Grace and peace to you from God our Father!

Paul's Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Church

³ We always give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and the love that you have for all the saints.

⁵ Your faith and love have arisen from the hope laid up for you in heaven, which you have heard about in the message of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. Just as in the entire world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, so it has also been bearing fruit and growing among you from the first day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth. ⁷ You learned the gospel from Epaphras, our dear fellow slave—a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf—⁸ who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

BIG IDEA

The message of Jesus is universal, inclusive, and grows plant-like and gives us a way of living that is hope-filled.

INTRO

- Introduction to Colossians

- Authorship, Location, Reason for the letter

THROUGH THE VERSES

1-2 The Greeting

3-8 Thanks for them

'A consumerist mentality allows each person to choose his or her particular brand of truth just as he or she might choose a certain make of automobile or toothpaste, according to preferences and perceived needs. Each person then acts in accordance with the chosen standards. In a Malcolm Bradbury novel, Professor Treece muses: "It's a funny age, isn't it? There are so many literatures, so many religions, so many cultures, so many philosophies, one doesn't know where to turn."

NEXT STEPS

"When confronted with the laughter and scorn of the modern-day scoffers, nominal church members may be tempted to capitulate. They will abandon their faith or trade it in for the latest craze. In Paul's language, they return to the darkness where the rulers of this age hold sway" (David Garland, NIVAC).