

HOME CHURCH

FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION:

Colossians 1:9-14

1. When have your instincts been wrong about something? What happened?
2. Read the passage. Use two translations. Take note of words that jump out. Discuss...
3. NT Wright states, "Human instincts are important, but they remain earthbound. When people become Christians, God implants into them a new sense of his presence and love, his guiding and strengthening. This sense needs nurturing and developing." How do you see Paul doing this here?
4. This whole passage is in the form of thanks and intercession prayer. List some of the things he prays for them. Which of these, at this time, speaks to us as a church most? Why?
5. The dominion of darkness and the Kingdom of the Son are two different ways we centre our lives. Jesus brings us liberation from the darkness. What does that mean for you and me today?
6. Gratitude is a practice that we find difficult, yet here it is again (and again). How can we cultivate more wonder, thanks, and gratitude in our lives?

PRAYER:

MAY 3, 2020

COLOSSIANS

POWER PRAYERS

People yearn for liberty and look for it in many places. We seek goodness and long to be people of kindness, but where does that power come from when our world is driven by greed and every imaginable division? Is there any way out or up? When does knowledge become wisdom? This Sunday, we look at an ancient prayer and a way of looking at the world that makes the pieces fit.

Colossians 1:9-14 (NET Bible)

Paul's Prayer for the Growth of the Church

⁹ For this reason we also, from the day we heard about you, have not ceased praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so that you may live worthily of the Lord and please him in all respects—bearing fruit in every good deed, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might for the display of all patience and steadfastness, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light. ¹³ He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Outline of Paul's digressions in today's teaching. This is how the verses hang together.

(9) We have not ceased praying and asking

(9b) That you may be filled ...

(10) That you may walk worthily...

That is,

(10b) Bearing fruit and growing...

(11) Being empowered...

(12) (a) Giving thanks... to the one who (b) qualified you...

(13) Who "rescued us.."

(14) In whom...

(15) Who...

(21) Once you were...

