

I THANK GOD – WEEK 3

Bearing Fruit in Every Good Work

Colossians 1:3–14

GUIDED SERMON NOTES

Follow along with the sermon and take notes. Fill in the blanks. Write down your own responses to what God is showing you.

1 PAUL THANKS GOD FOR THEM.

Before Paul addresses how these believers need to grow, he recognizes what the gospel has already begun producing among them.

- Paul heard of their _____ in Christ Jesus.
- And their _____ for all the saints.

"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,"
COLOSSIANS 1:3–4 (ESV)

What evidence of God's grace am I quick to overlook in others?

2 THE GOSPEL BEARS FRUIT.

The Colossians' future hope in Christ is already producing present fruit.

- Because of the _____ laid up in heaven.
- The gospel is "bearing fruit and _____."
- Their future hope is producing present _____.

"the gospel … is bearing fruit and increasing"
COLOSSIANS 1:6 (ESV)

Am I treating Christianity like instructions, or like new life in Christ?

3 KNOWING GOD AND WALKING WORTHY.

Paul prays that these believers will keep growing in spiritual wisdom and understanding so that their lives will increasingly please the Lord.

- To be filled with the knowledge of His _____.
- To walk in a manner _____ of the Lord.
- To bear _____ in every good work.

"so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work"
COLOSSIANS 1:10 (ESV)

Is my knowledge of God showing up in the way I live?

4 THE POWER FOR PATIENCE.

God's glorious power is not only displayed in what He does around us. It is displayed in the work He does in us.

- Endurance: remaining faithful through difficult _____.
- Patience: remaining steady and slow to anger with difficult _____.
- God strengthens us for endurance and patience with _____.

"being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,"
COLOSSIANS 1:11 (ESV)

Where do I need Christ's strength instead of my own?

5 HE RESCUED US.

The Christian life begins with what God has done for us in Christ. The Father qualified us, delivered us, transferred us, and gave us redemption and forgiveness in His Son.

- He has _____ us to share in the inheritance of the saints.
- He has _____ us from the domain of darkness.
- He has _____ us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.
- In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of _____.

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."
COLOSSIANS 1:13–14 (ESV)

How should the grace I've received shape the grace I extend?

BOTTOM LINE: *The gospel doesn't just give us a reason to love. It gives us the power to keep loving.*

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
WOLFEBORO, NH
FOUNDED 1812
www.firstchristianwolfeboro.org

Watch / Listen

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THE WEEKLY PATH

Colossians 1:3–14

Read each passage in context. Ask: Who wrote it? To whom? What is happening? How does the surrounding passage shape its meaning?

1 MONDAY — WHAT DOES PAUL CELEBRATE?

READ
Colossians 1:3–4
Philippians 1:3–5

DISCUSS
What does Paul thank God for before addressing growth or correction? Why is it significant that he notices faith in Christ and love for other believers?

APPLY
Thank God for one specific evidence of grace in another believer's life, then encourage that person this week.

2 TUESDAY — HOW DOES HOPE PRODUCE FRUIT?

READ
Colossians 1:5–6
1 Peter 1:3–9

DISCUSS
How does future hope in Christ produce present fruit? What does Paul want us to see about the gospel's power?

APPLY
Identify one area where hope in Christ's promises should shape the way you live today.

3 WEDNESDAY — WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WALK WORTHY?

READ
Colossians 1:9–10
Ephesians 4:1–3

DISCUSS
How are knowing God's will and living in a way that pleases Him connected? Why is walking worthy not the same as earning salvation?

APPLY
Ask God to show you one area where deeper knowledge of Him should lead to clearer obedience.

4 THURSDAY — WHAT IS GOD'S POWER FOR?

READ
Colossians 1:11
2 Corinthians 12:9–10

DISCUSS
Why does Paul connect God's glorious might to endurance, patience, and joy? What difficult circumstance or difficult person exposes your need for Christ's strength?

APPLY
Before a hard interaction, pray Colossians 1:11 and ask Christ for endurance, patience, and joy.

5 FRIDAY — HOW DOES THE GOSPEL SHAPE RELATIONSHIPS?

READ
Colossians 1:12–14
Colossians 3:12–13

DISCUSS
How does the rescue and forgiveness we have in Christ shape the grace we extend to others?

APPLY
Choose one relationship where you have been struggling. Before your next interaction, take one faithful step in love.

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