

Mid-Week Recharge Bible Study
Pastor Pat McElroy, First Presbyterian Church of Wenatchee
11/9/11

Colossians, *Christian Maturity*
Week One: Maturing Thanksgiving-vv. 1:1-14

Introduction:

Setting

Time

Themes

Key Words and Phrases:

Section One: An introduction-vv. 1-2

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

2 To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Content Questions:

- Who are the writers of this letter?
- What does Paul highlight about himself in verse 1?
- To whom is the letter written? How are they described?
- What is the greeting that Paul gives them and from Whom does it come?

Discussion Questions:

- In what is Paul's ministry grounded? In what is your ministry grounded?
- How have you experienced the grace of God the Father recently?

Section Two:-vv. 3-8

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,

4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,

5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing--as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth,

7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf

8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Content Questions:

- Paul says that they always thank God when they pray for them. Why is that? What has he heard about them?
- In what is their love grounded (v. 5)?
- What did they hear? What effect did it have?
- From whom did they hear it? Who is he? What has he told Paul and Timothy?

Discussion Questions:

- How is your faith in Christ Jesus? How is your love for all the saints?

- Where is your hope?
- From whom did you hear it? What happened to that person? When was the last time you talked to/prayed for them?
- How do you understand the grace of God in truth?

Section Three: -vv. 9-10

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,
10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Content Questions:

- What have Paul and Timothy not stopped doing? For what are they specifically asking?
- What will be the hoped for result?

Discussion Questions:

- What does prayer without ceasing look like for you?
- How have you grown in the knowledge of His will? In spiritual wisdom?
- How has your walk grown in being pleasing to Him? Bearing fruit in every good work? Increasing in knowledge of Him?

Section Four: -vv. 11-14

11 May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,
12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.
13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Content Questions:

- What specifically does Paul pray? What is the hoped for result?
- To Whom are they to give thanks? What has He done?
- To Whose Kingdom have we been delivered? What has He won for us?

Discussion Questions:

- How is your strength spiritually speaking? From where have you received it? In what has it resulted for you?
- What thanks do you give to God and why?
- Reflect on what God the Father and Christ His Son have done for you.