

COLOSSIANS 1:3-14

THE CHASE: OUR DESIRE FOR ENOUGH & JESUS' PURSUIT OF US

SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE — FEBRUARY 9

OPEN

1. What have you been thanking God for and what have you been asking him for recently?

As in many of his letters, Paul begins by thanking God for his work in the church and sharing the content of his prayers on their behalf (cf. Rom. 1:8-15; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; Eph. 1:15-23; Phil. 1:3-11; 1 Thess. 1:2-10; 2:13; 2 Thess. 1:3-4; Philemon 4-7). These passages give us a window into the Apostle's heart and hopes for God's people. READ COLOSSIANS 1:3-14.

DISCUSS

2. Briefly summarize what Paul specifically thanks God for and what he asks God for.
3. The words *faith*, *hope*, and *love* often appear together in Paul's letters (cf. Rom. 5:1-5; 1 Cor. 13:13; 1 Thess. 1:3; 5:8), and have been referred to as "the three theological virtues" throughout church history. How does Paul describe the relationship between them? And how is the gospel related to them?
4. What more does Paul say about the gospel here (especially in verse 3-8)? What image or metaphor does he associate with the gospel?
5. In verses 10-12, Paul identifies four broad characteristics or qualities of a "walk" that is worthy of the Lord and pleasing to him. What stands out to you in these verses? What confidence does Paul provide us with to imagine that we can grow in any of these things?
6. Paul prays that these believers would be filled with knowledge, not just for information but transformation. And Peter acknowledges that we can become "ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Pet. 1:9).
 - a. What is something you know to be true—that God has revealed in Scripture—that you have struggled or resisted applying in your life?
 - b. What encouragement or motivation do you see in this passage to follow through on the Spirit's leading?
7. Lastly, Paul says that we have been "delivered from the domain of darkness and transferred...[in]to the kingdom of his beloved Son" (1:13).
 - a. Share one or two ways that you have experienced the truth of what Paul is saying here in your own life.
 - b. Though as believers we are securely situated "in Christ" (verse 2) and in his kingdom, we still can be influenced by "the domain of darkness." Where do you feel the pull to give into sin (from our flesh), lies (from Satan), or the idols (of our culture)?

PRAY

As you close, thank God for the forgiveness he gives us through Christ Jesus. Take the things you have discussed, especially from questions 6 & 7 into prayer, allowing Paul's words of prayer to shape your own.