

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Leviticus 18:1-5, 19:9-18

Psalm 41

As for me, I said, "O Lord, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!" (v4)

Colossians 1:1-14

Luke 10:25-37

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, your mercy delights us, & the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, & turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- Colossians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, & Timothy our brother, ² To the saints & faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you & peace from God our Father. 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 & 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 & increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it & 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 & has made known to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹ & 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 & understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work & increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance & 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 & transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does St. Paul's use of hope v5 contrast with pagan notions of currying sacrificial favor with capricious gods or religious systems of (perfectly) good behavior? *See Romans 8:18-25; Ephesians 2:11-22*
2. What does *1 Peter 2:1-25* add? What similarities do you find? What differences in context/setting do you find? Use your study Bible's notes.

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. In vv9-12 lays out the "good life" for Christians. For each verse give three examples of God at work to bring you his good life.
4. Notice in vv13-14 salvation is accomplished and finished for us by God. We don't have to add, complete, or activate anything. What makes us humans so ready to look to ourselves and our own actions as what *really* matters? *See Romans 3:19-30; 1 Corinthians 1:28-30, 13:1-3; Ephesians 2:1-10*

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. In *Luke 10:25-37* the question of being a neighbor (*cf. v10 above*) requires being nearby, not some abstracted notions of kinship, citizenship, or other affinity. How does this parable help us keep our cool during this time of heightened political pressure, even demagoguery?
6. Notice how St. Paul prays for the far-off Colossians he doesn't know (v9). How do our prayers have an effect for distant (long-suffering?) strangers? *See Proverbs 15:29; 1 John 5:14*

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Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 10

07.13.25

Series: The Good Life

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Life finds joy & hope today, but fulfillment in eternity

Gospel Bears Good Fruit

The good life loves God and loves neighbor- in action, not platitude

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: [The gospel] has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit & increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it & understood the grace of God in truth. (v6)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
& your neighbor as yourself. (*Luke 10:27*)

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