

The  
New  
Testament  
in a Year

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Week 24

Colossians 1-4; Philemon

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*This week's reflector is  
**Judy Shulist.***

*She is a member of the  
Moorefield-Rothsay Pastoral Charge  
near Drayton.*

General Questions for Reflection

You might pick one part of each chapter and think about these questions.

- What does this tell me about God (including Jesus and the Holy Spirit)?
- What does this tell me about our world?
  - What does it tell me about me?
- What does it say about following Jesus?
- Is there something here I'd like to learn more about?

Why not use these thoughts to shape your prayer today.

Monday

Colossians 1

In this, Paul's letter to the church at Colossae, he tells of his opposition to their teachings. He instructs them to pray prayers of thanksgiving in everything. This gospel is to bring the good news and spread blessings throughout the world. Jesus is the visible likeness of God and is therefore the source of all life.

*Do we take all this for granted and expect constant miracles and answers to prayer? Should we study more of this theology of Paul's?*

Christ was the first born Son raised from death and because of this we are closer to God. Jesus Christ is our sure foundation to draw us closer to a better life and be able to be forgiven. Paul is His servant and is trying to bring people to Christ so that Jesus will live in our hearts forever.

Tuesday

Colossians 2

In this chapter Paul relates how hard he has worked for all and especially the people of Laodicea, so that they can better understand God's secret which is in fact Christ, His Son.

Paul tries to explain that those who accept the stories and teachings are one with Christ. We are circumsized not in the procedure done by men but by being freed of sin and evil ways. Our baptism symbolizes our own death and resurrection into new life with Christ.

*Should we not then leave aside all rules of daily living which would take us further away from our God and His Son?*

Many rules have been made as to what we should eat and when, based on the so-called wisdom in the worship of angels and false humility but have no value in controlling the nature of humans.

Wednesday

### Colossians 3

In this chapter, Paul reminds us that we have been raised up with Christ who now sits at the right hand of God. If we want to live with Him, we must put to death acts of sexual immorality, greed, lust and evil passions. Paul also reminds them that they must get rid of the evil passions that had consumed their lives. There should be no anger, hate or obscene language.

*Are these pieces of our human nature which we must give up in order to be born again in Christ's image?*

Paul again tells the Colossians that they are the people of God, that he chose them and they must now clothe themselves with compassion, kindness, humility and be patient with one another and forgive as you have been forgiven.

Thursday

### Colossians 4

Paul now reminds the masters of slaves to treat them fairly as you would want to be treated by your Master in heaven. His instructions are to pray fervently and ask forgiveness. Witness to non-believers and always remain pleasant and interesting.

Paul is sending his final greetings from prison. He tells them he is doing well and give his greetings to the people of Laodicea. This final verse tells of the faithful and loving servant hood of Paul as he prays for them and cares even while he himself is locked away in prison.

*How then do we compare in our Christian walk and service to God. What can we do to be more faithful servants as was Paul and others before him?*

Friday

### Philemon

In Paul's letter to Philemon, he emphasizes his faith in him. Paul has heard of Philemon's love and faith in all God's people. Paul feels much love and encouragement even though he is still in prison.

He sends a request for Philemon to take Onesimus to help in his spiritual war for Christ. Paul considers Onesimus his son in Christ and no longer a slave but Philemon's brother in Christ.

*How does Paul remember to contact everyone with a plan for life and faith? Even though he sits in prison?*

He tells Philemon that if Onesimus wrongs him in any way, that Paul will take full responsibility. Paul hopes that everyone will pray for him and that God will soon send him back to them. He sends his final greetings and asks the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with them all.