

Staying the Course: What have we learned?

Colossians 1:9-18

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Colossians 1:9-18: For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, ¹⁰ so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, ¹¹ being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, ¹² and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ misdirection

_____ self-righteousness: The disciples and the crowd were saying: "Blessed is he who comes...in the name of the Lord!" The Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher warn your disciples! Listen to what they are saying!" Luke 19:38-39 (JOT)

_____ self-centeredness: "Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. Matthew 16:24-25 (MSG)

2. _____ for correcting the course

_____ for direction: We have not ceased praying and asking specifically for you to be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all wisdom and spiritual insight so that you will walk worthy of the Lord, while pleasing him... Colossians 1:9-10 (JOT)

_____ attention to bearing fruit: Please the Lord by bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge...experiencing the power of God's dominion while building in you perseverance and patience...with joy, giving thanks to God the Father.... Colossians 1:10b-12a (JOT)

_____ : For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins. Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.... Colossians 1:13-15 (NLT)

3. _____ an abundant life

_____ to the invitation: Ho! everyone in need, come to the waters, and he who has no strength, let him get food: come, get bread without money; wine and milk without price. Why do you give your money for what is not bread, and the fruit of your work for what will not give you pleasure?... Isaiah 55:1-2a (BBE)

Spiritual Action Step:

Are you struggling with emptiness? Do you need strength for living? Are you finding a fullness and joy in your life? Or are you overwhelmed with anxiety and uncertainty? Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28 (NIV)) Will you respond to Jesus's invitation? God wants to give you springs of living water, even in the most barren and dry places. It begins by choosing to follow Christ and denying that your way is the best way! Deny yourself and choose to follow Christ. You will find a fullness of joy and an eternal hope that will give you strength. This week read Isaiah 55 and Matthew 16 to allow the Holy Spirit to lead you to springs of Living Waters!