

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find interesting, new, helpful, confusing, etc. in the reading this week?

**1. Sunday, July 2; Rom. 16: 19-27; Gentiles, Have Faith!** Read the passage with notes. To what are we to be wise and innocent (19)? How do we do this? What will God do soon (20)? How is your life different because “the grace of the Lord Jesus is with you (20b)? How have you or I experienced the brother-sisterhood of believers we have never or just recently met (21-24)? **Personal Application:** Summarize verses 25-27 in one brief sentence. What did you find most rewarding/encouraging in your study of Romans?

**2. Monday, July 3; Intro to Colossians, Col 1:1-8; The Gospel is Growing!** Read the Introduction to Colossians and the passage with notes. Why was Colossians written? What else did you learn from the Introduction? How did Paul regard to brothers in Colossae (2a)? How do you and I experience God’s grace and peace throughout the day (2b)? What was the reason for the Colossians faith in Christ and love for the brethren (3-8)? **Personal Application:** How are you and I growing in Christ?

**3. Tuesday, July 4; Col. 1:9-14; Praying for Knowledge of God’s Will + Spiritual Wisdom and Understanding.** Read passage with notes. For what revelation does Paul pray for the Colossians (9)? How do you and I daily live life worthy of the Lord, bear fruit, and grow in the knowledge of God (10)? Give an example of how you or I have been strengthened with God’s power to have great endurance and/or patience lately (11)? How has God qualified us to share in the inheritance of the Saints (12-14)? **Personal Application:** How would being filled with the knowledge of God’s will along with spiritual wisdom and understanding help you or me daily (9)? Shall we pray this for ourselves?

**4. Wednesday, July 5; Col. 1:15-23; Reconciled!** Read the passage with notes. Whose image does Christ reflect (15)? What was Christ’s role in creation (16-17)? How and why does He have supremacy over all (18-19)? How did Christ reconcile and make peace with everything (20)? What victory do we have now as compared with our former selves (21-22)? **Personal Application:** How do we live in victory daily (23a)? How has “the gospel been proclaimed to every creature under heaven” (23b)? What is your reaction to this thought?

**5. Thursday, July 6; Col. 1:24-29; Christ in YOU, the Hope of Glory.** What is Paul saying in verse 24? What is Paul’s call (25)? What is the Mystery that was hidden but now revealed to the Gentiles (26-27)? Why won’t Paul rest (28-29)? **Personal Application:** Thank and praise God that Jesus Christ gloriously lives in and shines through YOU! How are you or I laboring for the gospel?

**6. Friday, July 7; Col. 2:1-7; Reconciled!** Read the passage with notes. Again, why does Paul labor (1-3)? Have Paul’s labors been completed in you and me—do we have “the full riches of complete understanding”? Which “fine sounding arguments” are trying to deceive you or me today (4)? How may we stay firm (5)? How are we to continue living in Christ (6-7)? **Personal Application:** How are you rooted, strengthened, and overflowing in your faith?

**7. Saturday, July 8; Col. 2:8-15; Alive in Christ.** Read the passage with notes. How is verse 8 true today? Why must verse 9 be true in order for the Christian faith to be true? Make a list of all the truths of your changed life in Christ and mine found in verses 10-15. **Personal Application:** Why is it important to make the mental change to “being alive in Christ: versus feeling “dead in our sins”?

**Cindy Oury. July 1, 2017**