

Daily Walk on the Rock

December 31, 2023



St. Paul Lutheran Church

“Your Refuge from the Storm”

Monday

COLOSSIANS 2

Read through the chapter and pray for insight and understanding. Colossians 2 continues to focus on right and wrong Christian teachings. Verses 2:8 and 7:16-23 reject the claims that we must live in very strict ways to be fully united with Christ. Not true, Paul says (2:6-8, 2:16-23.) We have already received Christ. Continue to live in him, strengthened in faith as we were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. Do you feel like you have received Christ and that you are overflowing with thankfulness? Why or why not? (Colossians 2:13-15.) Christ's death for us brought eternal victory over all forces. We are forgiven in Christ's death. Spend a few minutes thanking and praising God for the gift of salvation through Christ Jesus.

Tuesday

COLOSSIANS 3

Colossians 3 gives us a guide for our lives and our relationships with other Christians (3:1-5, 3:12-17), with our families (3:18 – 4:1), and with people who are not Christians (4:5-6). How does Paul define greed (3:5)? Do we see the sin in others more easily than in ourselves? Read 3:5-14 again, slowly. Confess your sin and pray that you will be clothed in the characteristics of Jesus (3:12-17). Now read Colossians 3:18 – 4:1. How do these directives speak of selflessness and honoring others? How do they reflect the heart of Jesus? (Philippians 2:6-8). How does your faith in Christ affect your relationships?

Wednesday

COLOSSIANS 4

Paul wrote Colossians while in prison, and yet he does not ask for the Colossians to pray for his freedom. What does he ask them to pray (4:2-6)? What does it mean to make the most of every opportunity? Paul so wanted to share the gospel, the good news of Jesus. Pause and pray that this will be your desire, also. What does Paul write about Epaphras (4:12)? Let his prayer concerns guide your prayer time this day.

Thursday

HEBREWS 1

Lutherans believe that the word of God is both law (judgment) and gospel (promise). Hebrews is a book that challenges us to be faithful to Christ, no matter what the cost. Many believe this book was written to encourage Jewish Christians facing suffering and persecution. Read all of Hebrews 1 and bask in the wondrous glory of Jesus. What glorious truths to meditate on as a new year

is about to dawn! Notice the promise of 1:10-12. Thank God for the comfort 1:14 and Psalm 91:11.

Friday

HEBREWS 2

Yesterday we read of the glorious identity of Jesus, who died to pay the penalty for our sin, that we might live in God's presence forever. But today our reading begins with a warning to pay attention. What is it? (Hebrews 2:1.) What does it mean to drift away? Read Hebrews 2:5-9. The entire world is subject to Jesus' rule. Why does that seem hard to believe in our world today? As you read 2:14-18 think about why we needed someone with flesh and blood like us – not an angel – to die in our place? What is the goal of salvation as described in 2:10-11? Spend time thanking Jesus for his love and telling him of your love for him.

Saturday

HEBREWS 3

Read Hebrews 3:1-6. Pray that you will fix your eyes upon Jesus. Again we are reminded that Jesus is greater than Moses. Why is that important? What new warning is given in 3:8 and 3:12? Read 3:7-19 once again to hear the warning about the danger of hard hearts. Read Numbers 14 to find out how the people of Israel hardened their hearts. Verse 13 brings encouragement to us as a Christian community. When we read verse 14, we find out what the outcome of faithfulness is. Pray that God will reign in your life and that your heart will stay tender and faithful.

Sunday

PSALM 146

As you read Psalm 146 consider that God is worthy of all honor and praise. Why is it so important that we put our trust in the Lord? Read 146:5-9 and reflect on two powers that the Psalmist describes. What are they? Spend a few moments thinking about how you spend your time and talents. What glorifies God, and how do you express God's mercy and grace to others? God's sovereignty and faithfulness first appear as creator of all, and is then expressed in compassionate acts of mercy and grace to the unfortunate. Our God is an awesome God indeed.