

A Worthy Life that Pleases God (Colossians 1:9-14)

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Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

Introduction: What a treasure Paul's prayers are! He prays that the Colossians and us would grow in God's knowledge in order to "live a life that is worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way." What does this life look like? It's not about religious observances or outward success "for God." It's about inward character and how we relate to God and people. Specifically, Paul prays for our fruit-bearing, knowledge of God, endurance, and joy, which he says come as we "share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light."

Opening Prayer: "The Father... has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves" (Colossians 1:12-13).

Read Scripture: Colossians 1 (NIV84)

9 ...Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may 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, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints 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.

1st Reading: What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

2nd Reading: Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

3rd Reading: What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.