

Women of the Word

“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.” ~Ephesians 2:4, 5

“And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” ~Philippians 1:9-11

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” ~Colossians 3:12-14

What can we learn and apply to our daily Christian walks from these three letters the Apostle Paul wrote while he was imprisoned in Rome? Read along with us this month as we read these Pauline Prison epistles – Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. Paul is a strong leader, bold and courageous in sharing the gospel message with everyone around him — including the imperial guard, prisoners, and anyone who might come close enough to hear his message about the saving grace of Jesus.

Paul wrote as a pastor to each of these churches. His concern for these believers is obvious as we read his words of greeting, exhortation, and praise in each book. Paul addresses specific concerns surrounding Christian living. It is his desire for these people to grow and develop into the godly individuals God purposed for their lives. We can also read and benefit from these letters—chapters and verses—and seek to apply Paul’s words and exhortations to our personal walks with the Lord. Let’s be doers of the Word and not hearers only.

General Suggestions & Tips

- Schedule an appointment each day to read God’s Word.
- Begin with prayer and ask the Lord to speak to you through His Word.
- Follow the reading schedule for the scripture passage listed.
- Read your Bible with a notebook and pen beside you. Make note of words, phrases, and verses that stand out as you read each day’s passage.
- Look for points of *personal application*.
 - How is God speaking to me (instruction, call to obey, warning)?
 - What does this passage teach me about God?
 - Are there specific truths God wants me to apply to my life?

Dig deeper as you read the books of Ephesians, Philippians, & Colossians:

1. Take some time to ponder the depth of God’s love, mercy, and grace? Write a list of descriptive words pertaining to these three attributes of God.
2. Describe the “fruit of righteousness” in your life (see Philippians). How can you grow in this area?
3. What practical steps could you take to “clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience?”

Reading Schedule for the Books of Ephesians, Philippians, & Colossians

- July 1 Ephesians 1:1-14
- July 2 Ephesians 1:15-23
- July 3 Ephesians 2:1-10
- July 4 Ephesians 2:11-22
- July 5 Ephesians 3:1-13
- July 6 Ephesians 3:14-21
- July 7 Review Ephesians 1:1–3:21
- July 8 Ephesians 4:1-6
- July 9 Ephesians 4:7-16
- July 10 Ephesians 4:17-24
- July 11 Ephesians 4:25-32
- July 12 Ephesians 5:1-21
- July 13 Ephesians 5:22-6:4
- July 14 Ephesians 6:5-9
- July 15 Ephesians 6:10-20
- July 16 Ephesians 6:21-24
- July 17 Review Ephesians 4:1—6:24
- July 18 Philippians 1:1-11
- July 19 Philippians 1:12-30
- July 20 Philippians 2:1-18
- July 21 Philippians 2:19-30
- July 22 Philippians 3:1-21
- July 23 Philippians 4:1-23
- July 24 Review Philippians 1:1—4:23
- July 25 Colossians 1:1-14
- July 26 Colossians 1:15-29
- July 27 Colossians 2:1-23
- July 28 Colossians 3:1-17
- July 29 Colossians 3:18–4:6
- July 30 Colossians 4:7-18
- July 31 Review Colossians 1:1—4:18