

Sermon Notes

“Working Hard by God’s Enabling Strength”

Colossians 1:29, other select texts

October 13, 2024

5. If Christ is in you (Col. 1:27) by means of the presence of the Holy Spirit dwelling within you (Rom. 8:9), what help can you expect from him? What are your responsibilities in this partnership and what are God’s responsibilities?

6. What kingdom purpose is God prompting you to work hard at in dependence upon his enabling strength?

Let’s Pray

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 10-13-2024

Adapted from Luci Shaw, Colossians: Focus on Christ, Harold Shaw Publishers, Wheaton, IL, 1982, pp. 28-29; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 278; Lyman Coleman, et.al., eds., Serendipity New Testament for Groups, Serendipity House, Littleton, CO, 1986, p. 382.

Getting Started:

1. When have you become tired because of your work for the kingdom of God?

Digging Deeper:

Read Colossians 1:25-29

2. How did Paul help believers become spiritually mature? What kind of effort did Paul expend in this endeavor?
3. Paul uses words like *suffer*, *struggle*, and *labor*. Did you imagine the Christian life would be that tough when you became a believer? What did you expect?
4. Paul insists he exerts this effort "according to God's power at work within me." Paul and Peter describe similar ideas elsewhere (Col. 1:10-11; Phil. 2:12-13; 4:13; 2 Cor. 3:4-7; Eph. 3:16; 1 Tim. 1:12; 1 Pet. 4:11). What does Zech 4:6, Luke 4:14, John 15:1-5,8 and Acts 1:8 contribute to this discussion? After looking up these references, synthesize all the elements to describe how this works.