

Third meeting on Colossians: THANKSGIVING FOR MATURITY (1:3-8)

- Share: what did you try/learn/find out/experience regarding greeting others last week?
- Take some time to approach God in praying together. Be aware how much you stand in need of the help of the Holy Spirit. Thank God for giving the Holy Spirit. Ask the Holy Spirit to dwell and work in your midst, to teach, give insight, build you up through kind acts of the LG-members this meeting.

- Read: Colossians 1 vs. 1-8 and try to summarise what you found concerning what this text means. These questions can be helpful (but don't feel obliged to answer them all):
 - What do you know about the circumstances of Paul and Timothy
 - Why do they give thanks to God?
 - Why does Paul write 'for all the saints'
 - How are faith, love and hope related?
 - Why is 'understanding the grace of God in truth' needed to be able to love 'all the saints'?

- When you try to look at balance in your prayer life between being overwhelmed with thanksgiving on the one hand and asking a lot of things on the other hand; what does it look like in your prayer life? (you need not to feel ashamed of your answer, nor to be proud of it). [by the way: how are both elements present in the prayer book of the Bible, the book of Psalms?].

- The prayers of the LG of Paul and Timothy were focussed on progress of the gospel and growth in maturity and fruitfulness of the church everywhere. Is this focus present in your prayers? Is it your central focus?

- To propose to pray & thank God together after meeting each other: is this normal/new for you? Would you like to grow in this?

- To share with others about what you thank/pray for them: do you like this idea? a) concerning believers, b) concerning unbelievers. Try to practise this and to share about your experiences next meeting!

- Take time for thanksgiving and worshipping prayer, but also for prayer requests and intercession.