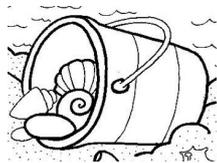


Sunday 7-August to Saturday 13-August

WEEK THREE | JESUS OUR ROCK

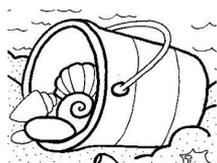
DAY 1 | I can even celebrate the sorrows I have experienced on your behalf; for as I join with you in your difficulties, it helps you to discover what lacks in your understanding. This is the very reason I've been made a minister by the authority of God and a servant to his body, so that in his detailed plan I would fully equip you with the Word of God. There is a divine mystery—a secret surprise that has been concealed from the world for generations, but now it's being revealed, unfolded and manifested for every holy believer to experience. Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it! Christ is our message!



We begin to get the hint here that the church in Colossae was struggling to understand some aspects of Christianity, and how to keep its mission on track. I wonder what issues the churches are struggling with today. What do you find particularly confusing or frustrating about church?

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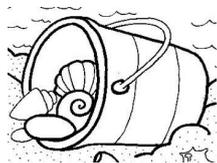
DAY 2 | Christ is our message! We preach to awaken hearts and bring every person into the full understanding of truth. It has become my inspiration and passion in ministry to labour with a tireless intensity, with his power flowing through me, to present to every believer the revelation of being his perfect one in Jesus Christ.



We begin to get the hint here that the church in Colossae was struggling to understand some aspects of Christianity, and how to keep its mission on track. I wonder what issues the churches are struggling with today. What do you find particularly confusing or frustrating about church?

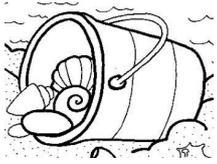
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DAY 3 | I wish you could know how much I have struggled for you and for the many other friends I've yet to meet. I am contending for you that your hearts will be wrapped in the comfort of heaven and woven together into love's fabric. This will give you access to all the riches of God as you experience the revelation of God's great mystery—Christ. For our spiritual wealth is in him, like hidden treasure waiting to be discovered—heaven's wisdom and endless riches of revelation knowledge.



Paul is being very honest here about the joys and the heartaches of being a Christian minister. I wonder what you value most in the ministers who look out for you. How does it feel to realise that that for some people you are the only minister or pastor that they really know?

DAY 4 | I want you to know this so that no one will come and lead you into error through their persuasive arguments and clever words. Even though I'm separated from you geographically, my spirit is present there with you. And I'm overjoyed to see how disciplined and deeply committed you are because you have such a solid faith in Christ, the Anointed One. In the same way you received Jesus our Lord and Messiah by faith, continue your journey of faith, progressing further into your union with him! Your spiritual roots go deeply into his life as you are continually infused with strength, encouraged in every way. For you are established in the faith you have absorbed and enriched by your devotion to him!



We get the big clue here about what is going wrong for this non-Jewish church. Troublemakers travelled around telling non-Jewish believers that they weren't good enough because they 'only trusted in Jesus' when what they really needed was to keep all kinds of rules from the old days. Paul wants his friends in Colossae to see through all this nonsense. I wonder what issues get us side-tracked in this day and age.

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**MIDWEEK
MEANWHILES**

WEDNESDAY

10-AUGUST

10am
Midweek Communion
at St Barnabas
11.45am
Garden Church at
St Wulstans Vicarage

LUKE 6:46-49 | TWO HOUSEBUILDERS

What good is it to mouth the words, "Lord! Lord!" if you don't live by My teachings? What matters is that you come to Me, hear My words, and actually live by them. If you do that, you'll be like the man who wanted to build a sturdy house. He dug down deep and anchored his foundation to solid rock. During a violent storm, the floodwaters slammed against the house, but they couldn't shake it because of solid craftsmanship. It was built upon rock. On the other hand, if you hear My teachings but don't put them into practice, you'll be like the careless builder who didn't bother to build a foundation under his house. The floodwaters barely touched that pathetic house, and it crashed in ruins in the mud.