

apttoteach.org

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Colossians 1:3
Lesson #2
Christ is enough
01/18/2026

1

“You can safely assume that you’ve created God in your own image when it turns out that God **hates all the same people you do.**”

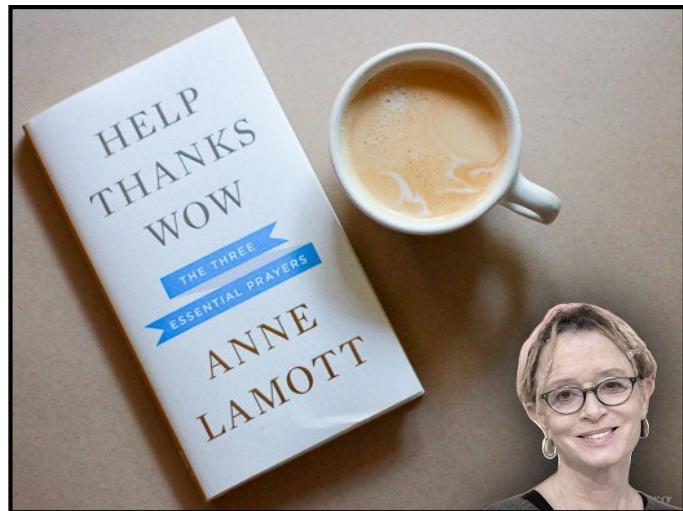
“One of the differences between you and God is that **God never thinks He is you.**”

“Three things I can’t change:
the past, the truth, & you.
I can only work on me.”

Anne Lamott



2



3

“Help”

1 Peter 5:7

“casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.”

Our anguish, anxieties, & anger are symptoms & signs that we can learn a lot from

What do we expect God to do in caring for us?



4

Spiritual formation consists of: **Knowing ourselves**

Accepting ourselves
 Getting over ourselves
 Sacrificially giving ourselves

Being in touch with our heart’s **core longings** is vital to knowing ourselves.

Our core longings are for a **serenity, security, & significance**

found only in Christ,
 that the world can’t give or take away.

5

Romans 8

“26 And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for **we do not know how to pray as we should**, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and **He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is**, because He intercedes for the saints **according to the will of God.**”

Do we realize that “the mind of the Spirit” may escape our mind?



6



John 14:14

“If you ask Me **anything** in My name, I will do it.”

The promise seems to be about the granting of any request.

But what does it mean to “ask in Jesus name”?



7

Psalm 37:4

“**Delight** yourself in the **LORD**, and he will give you **the desires of your heart.**”

How do we **delight** and what is our **desire**?

1 John 5

“14 And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything **according to His will**, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.”

Does “**His will**” refer to:

- our style,
- our faith,
- **or what we ask for?**



8

Colossians 1:3

“We **give thanks** to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **praying always for you,**”

CONTEXT

is key to hearing the Spirit’s voice in reading the Scripture.

1. **The circumstances** of the author and reader.
2. **The mood** of the author of Colossians.

9

Paul’s readers

then and now find it tempting to seek hope in something more than Christ.

Gnosticism (Jesus + New Age spirituality)

“2:3 **In him** are hidden all the treasures of wisdom & knowledge”

Docetism (Jesus + following his example)

“2:9 For **in him** the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily”

Judaizers (Legalism + keeping the Law)

“2:16-17 Let no one pass judgment on food, days, ... they are but a shadow of what is to come **in Christ**”

Syncretism (Jesus + psychology, politics, self-actualization, etc.)

“2:10 You have been filled **in him.**”

ETC.

Multiple heresies share one thing in common -

“*Christ is not enough!*”

10

Paul’s circumstances
were challenging and unpleasant.

Ephesians 6

“19 and pray on my behalf, ... to **make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel**, 20 for which **I am an ambassador in chains**; that in proclaiming it I may speak boldly, **as I ought to speak.**”

- He was in prison when he wrote Eph. & Col. & later was beheaded in Rome under Nero.
- He shows us that in the midst of & in spite of any circumstance

“*Christ is enough!*”

11

Jesus’ circumstances
were challenging and unpleasant.

Luke 22:42

“Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.”

Jesus (as a human)
modeled for us the
need to submit our
will to God’s will.



12

Paul's mood
was joyful, peaceful, ministry focused

1 Corinthians 11:1
“Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.”

- He is teaching by reminding and modeling,
especially under the restrictions of prison.

Colossians 1:24
“Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake,”

1 Corinthians 15:19
“If we have **hoped in Christ in this life only**,
we are of all men most to be pitied.”

“Christ is enough”!

13

In praying

it is better to have the right
heart in what we pray for
rather than

a strong faith in the
wrong means and for
the wrong things.

14

Colossians and Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ
ch. 1-2 (1-3)



Our walk in Christ
ch. 3-4 (4-6)

Colossians 1

“3 We **give thanks to God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ... 5 because of the **hope laid up for you in heaven**, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel,”

Ephesians 1

“16 (I) do not cease **giving thanks for you**, while making mention of you in my **prayers**; ... 18 so that you may know what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His **inheritance** in the saints,”

15

Colossians and Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ
ch. 1-2 (1-3)



Our walk in Christ
ch. 3-4 (4-6)

Colossians 1:9

“For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased **to pray for you** and to ask that you may be **filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding**.”

Ephesians 3

“14 For this reason, **I bow my knees** before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man**;”

16

Colossians and Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ
ch. 1-2 (1-3)

Colossians 4

“3 **praying at the same time for us as well**, that God may open up to us a door for the word, **so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ**, for which I have also been imprisoned; 4 in order **that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak**.”

Ephesians 6

“19 and **pray on my behalf**, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to **make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel**, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in **proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak**.”

17

Colossians and Ephesians

Our wealth in Christ
ch. 1-2 (1-3)



Our walk in Christ
ch. 3-4 (4-6)



He is first giving
thanks for our
INHERITANCE
and **HOPE**
“in Christ”.

He is also praying
that we grow
strong in
FAITH and LOVE.

He is finally praying
that we proclaim
with courage
the GOSPEL.

He prays that we will:
“get it” “groom it” “give it”

18

In prayer we give critical attention to:

- **style** (Lord's Prayer, tongues, posture, etc.),
- **time** (Meals, Bedtime, Always, etc.),
- **to whom** (Father, Son, H.S, Mary, saints),
- **faith** (expectations, passion, etc.)



... but too little critical
attention to:
for what.

“Christ is enough”!

19

Colossians

Next week
Col.1:3-12



20