

# Open My Eyes

Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your Law. – Psalm 119:18

Through the Bible in a year reading guide – Abiding Savior Free Lutheran Church

## September – Week 39

### Completed

24 - Colossians	1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
25 - Ecclesiastes	1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
26 - Ecclesiastes	5-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
27 - Ecclesiastes	9-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
28 - Song of Sol.	1-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
29 - 1 Thess.	1-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
30 - 2 Thess.	1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>

We read God's Word:

To know Him better

To love Him more

To walk in His ways

To be conformed to the image of His Son

**This week's reading:** Colossians, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, and 1st and 2nd Thessalonians. **The** Colossians were being influenced by Judaizers and Gnostics; Paul wrote, while in prison (4:18), to address these issues. The church received "the word of truth, the gospel" (1:5) from Epaphras (1:7); they had not yet met Paul (2:1). **Chapter 1** gives the truth about Jesus. In 1:13, the focus moves to the Son, "in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins", and "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation", and "the firstborn from the dead". "Firstborn" can mean "the first one born", but it means more than that: the "preeminent one", the one having first place: "Firstborn from the dead" (1:18; also, Rev. 1:5) - Jesus was not the "first one" raised from the dead. Elijah and Elisha each raised a boy from the dead. Jesus raised several people from the dead. But Jesus is the Preeminent One raised (they all died again, but Jesus lives forever). Other "firstborn" Scriptures: Genesis 41:51-52, Manasseh was born first, then Ephraim, but Jeremiah 31:9 says, "Ephraim is My firstborn", though he was not the "first one born". David was the eighth son of Jesse, but in Psalm 89:20-27, David was made the firstborn. Exodus 4:22 says that Israel is My firstborn. (Of course, Jacob [Israel] was the second twin, born after Esau.) When v.15 says, "firstborn of all creation", it means He is preeminent over all creation, not that He was the first one created. He created "all things". He is before "all things" (which means that He is not a "thing", not created). **Chapter 2** gives the truth about the cults. **Chapters 3 and 4** give the truth about believers. **Wisdom** is mentioned six times, at least once in each chapter. Knowledge five times in the first three chapters. **Is** something lacking in the sufferings of Jesus (1:24)? No, Paul is not talking about paying for the sins of the world, but rather, that his suffering was the price of getting this Good News of salvation to the Gentiles. **Don't** embrace the "shadow" by holding onto the Old Testament requirements! Embrace Jesus (2:16-17)! **If** you've "received Christ Jesus the Lord" walk in Him (2:6; also, John 1:12, Eph. 3:17). **Ecclesiastes** was written by Solomon (self-described as: son of David, king in Jerusalem, magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem, increased more than all who preceded in Jerusalem". See 1:1; 1:16; 2:7-9) In his youth, Solomon loved Yahweh (1 Kings 3:3), but his many pagan wives turned him from Yahweh; he built temples for their idols (1 Kings 11:4-10). This book gives us the "worldly view"; the words of a man who had everything (except his former relationship with God). Clearly, the view is "under the sun" (a worldly view). The spiritual world (3:19-21; 7:16-17; 8:14; 9:5-6; 10:19) from this worldly viewpoint doesn't represent the rest of God's biblical revelation. The name "Yahweh" is not mentioned. But, it still has some wise advice (like 10:2 😊). **The** letters to the Thessalonians reveal they had a real interest in eschatology (the study of last things). They were a good church, commended for their work of faith, labor of love, and steadfastness of hope in Jesus (1:3), with every chapter, except the last one (2 Thess. 3) mentioning the Return of Jesus. These letters were probably written after Galatians, but before Paul's other letters.

### Insights from the Original Biblical Languages (Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic):

When confronted with a decision between right and wrong, let the Word of God rule. But when there is a choice between two or more good things, and you are seeking God's will, in those times, let the peace of God act as the "umpire" or "arbiter" (βραβεύω - pronounced "brab-you-oh", often translated as "rule") in the inner disputes in your heart (Col. 3:15; also Isa. 30:21). **The** book of Ecclesiastes is named "Qohelet" in Hebrew. Qohelet is usually translated as "the Preacher" or "the Teacher" (seven times in the book). **Song of Solomon** is "Song or Songs" (a "superlative" name in Hebrew, like "King of kings" or "holy of holies"), but neither "God" or "Yahweh" are mentioned in this book.

### How has God revealed Himself in this week's reading? What has He shown me this week?

He is revealed in Jesus (Col. 1:13-19; 2:9). He put eternity in our heart (Eccl. 3:11); He is to be feared (Eccl. 12:13-14).