

**PIECING LIFE TOGETHER:
When Life is a Puzzle - Colossians 1:1-8**

- i. When life is a puzzle
 - a. We experience fragmentation in many areas of life.
 - b. Paul experienced some of the same in his day.
- ii. We plant a good new garden in the midst of the struggle.

PIECING LIFE TOGETHER IN A PUZZLING WORLD BEGINS WITH 4 ACTIONS:

I. WE READ

- a. Get out our Bibles, turn off the television, shut down the social media and read. The Book.
- b. *“The word of truth, the gospel that has come to you.”* v 5-6
- c. This word of truth is a seed planted in us and in difficult places when we read it.
- d. To read this is to plant a seed of transformation in difficult places: our hearts, homes, churches, neighborhoods, cities.
- e. Challenge: read Colossians this week.

II. WE PRAY

- a. “We always thank God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you.” v 3
- b. Prayer is the water that germinates the seed of the word to grow against all odds.
- c. Challenge: Pray every day this week for yourself, another, our place, county and the world.

III. WE SURRENDER

- a. We surrender to the soil. We don’t hide. We aren’t afraid. We are embedded
- b. “All over the world this gospel seed garden is bearing fruit and growing.” v 5-6
- c. Because Christ is doing this...see Col 1:19-20
- d. Challenge: practice surrendering to the cosmic Christ that is reconciling all things to himself every day.

IV. WE GO TO WORK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (THE GARDEN)

- a. This garden will begin to transform all difficult things.
- b. “Faith and love spring forth.” v 5
- c. Challenge: One time this week stop in your local town center and notice people and pray for them. If you witness an injustice for any reason, will you please stand up and speak to it.