

EIGHT WEEKS
THROUGH
COLOSSIANS

LOCAL

• CHURCH •

ST. PETE

EIGHT WEEKS THROUGH COLOSSIANS

WEEK 1 (COLOSSIANS 1:1-14)

- Paul is writing a letter to those who are following Jesus in the city of Colossae (modern day Turkey). As he writes, he is full of thankfulness. What are the things he is thankful for?

- v. 5-6 talks about the gospel. What is your understanding of what the gospel is? What does Paul say the gospel is doing (v. 6)?

- Epaphras made an impact on the Colossian believers by teaching them the good news (gospel) of Jesus. Can you think of someone who has brought you closer to God?

- Prayer is very important to Paul. What does he pray for the Christians in Colossae (v. 9-11)? Which of these things do you want in your life?

- When Jesus rescues us, what happens (v. 13-14)? Do you think this has ever happened in your life?

- What is one thing you believe God wants you to do after reading these verses? How will you obey what God wants you to do?

WEEK 2 (COLOSSIANS 1:15-23)

- What is true about Jesus according to v. 15-20? List everything you see.

- What does all this mean about Jesus? If all of this is true, how should we respond to Him?

- v. 15 says that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. How does Jesus' life on earth change our ability to see and understand God?

- How does the description of Jesus in Colossians 1 compare to the average person's view of Jesus?

- Reconciliation is mentioned several times. What is your understanding of this word? Why do we need to be reconciled?

- What did you learn about Jesus that you want to remember this week? How will it affect your attitude or your actions?

WEEK 3 (COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:5)

- It seems strange that Paul rejoices in his sufferings. How can he do this? What could possibly be his reason for rejoicing? (1:24, 2:1-2)
- Paul was full of purpose. He pursued that purpose with everything, willing to risk it all. What was his primary purpose and goal when it came to the Christians in Colossae?
- What is the mystery that Paul wanted the Colossians to understand?
- Paul had a deep love for other Christ-followers, and he desired that others would have this same type of love. What are some ways you feel challenged by Paul's love? How can you love others in a deeper way?
- Part of the "mystery" is how all types of people can be unified (knit together) in Jesus. Have you seen this in the church? If so, where? Where can we do a better job when it comes to unity between Christians (think race, age, gender, political persuasion, class, etc.)?
- Is there anything in this passage that you don't understand or have questions about?
- What is one way you want to grow or change when it comes to your relationship with others?

WEEK 4 (COLOSSIANS 2:6-15)

- We should walk with Jesus in the same way we first received Jesus. How central is Jesus to our first steps of faith? What might it look like to continue our walk with Jesus at the center?
- There are a lot of empty, deceitful philosophies and beliefs out there that have no regard for Jesus. What are some of the popular beliefs in our world today?
- What is it that can keep us from falling for the worldly ways of thinking? (refer back to v. 6-7)
- v. 9 is a bold statement. What does this mean about Jesus of Nazareth?
- v. 10 takes it even further. When we are in Jesus, we are filled with everything we need! What does that mean for our day to day life?
- In v. 11-13, we see that we can be identified with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. Has that happened in your life? Have you come to the place of surrender, where you desire to die to the old life and identify with Jesus, bury your sin, and be raised to a new life? If so, have you illustrated this in water baptism yet?
- The most freeing thing in the world is to know that all our sin and debt has been paid by Christ; that he nailed it to the cross, and Jesus defeated sin and the devil. How does it make you feel to think about Jesus doing this on your behalf?

WEEK 5 (COLOSSIANS 2:16-23)

- All of the Jewish laws were designed to be a shadow of the One who would come - Jesus. When Jesus lived on earth, He kept the law perfectly and obeyed His Father. For those who follow Him with their life, their perfection comes through Jesus alone, not through what they do and don't do. Why is this good news?

- How does focusing on our outward behavior and morality (apart from Jesus) puff us up with pride? How does it backfire and bring shame and condemnation?

- v. 19 tells us that Jesus is the Head of the Church, and the church is His body. What does Jesus provide for the church according to this verse, and how is a "head" a great illustration for that?

- Because our life is in Jesus, we don't work to impress God with our obedience. We obey because Jesus is impressive and we are being filled with Him. What does it look like for you this week to focus more on Jesus than your own performance?

- Many in the world strive for outward morality and behavior modification. How does this have the appearance of wisdom, yet lack the power for real change?

- v. 23 talks about stopping the indulgences of the flesh. What are some areas in your life that displease God, and you really want to see Jesus change those in you?

WEEK 6 (COLOSSIANS 3:1-17)

- How is someone “raised with Christ”? When this happens, what part of them dies?

- Even though our old life (and our old way of doing things) dies, we still battle the desires of the old life. What are some of the things we are told to “put to death” (v. 5,8,9)?

- Do you ever feel “old desires and temptations” tug at you? What in particular? Share so that you can pray against these things and have accountability.

- In Colossians 3 we are taught to “put off “ certain things, and also to “put on” other things. What could happen if we only stop doing things but we don’t replace them with new attitudes and habits?

- Write down the things we are supposed to “put on” in v. 12-17. Circle one or two that you believe God wants you to specifically focus on. What will it look like in your life this week to grow in these areas?

- v. 17 seems all-inclusive. What would it look like to do your normal routines in the name of Jesus - things like your job, cleaning the house, running errands, having coffee with a friend, parenting, etc.?

WEEK 7 (COLOSSIANS 3:18-4:1)

- The gospel that we have read about in Colossians 1-3 impacts who we are and how we relate to others. What relationships does Paul highlight in these verses?

- For the following relationships, list how God's way of relating is different from the norm in our society:

husband/wife -

parents/child -

employer/employee -

- How is our interaction with the other people in our life directly related to our relationship with Jesus (v. 23-24)?

- Throughout history, slavery has been a gross injustice. Paul is writing to a society where slavery is widespread, and rather than condoning injustice, he calls for slaves to be treated with justice and equity. While we don't know the exact particulars of slavery in Colossae, we do know that the gospel is incompatible with treating another human unjustly. What are some ways that people in our society are treated unjustly?

- Think through the relationships in your life. What is one relationship where you are not pleasing Jesus and you can apply this passage of Scripture? How will you apply it?

WEEK 8 (COLOSSIANS 4:2-18)

- What are the things that Paul encourages the Colossian Christians to pray for? What is the way that he encourages them to pray?
- Paul was a faithful missionary who shared the gospel everywhere he went, and yet he still asked others to pray that God might give him opportunities. What can we learn about prayer and how it is connected to sharing Jesus with others?
- We are to walk in wisdom towards “outsiders” (those who don’t follow Jesus) (v. 5). Why is it important that we live obediently to Jesus while in relationship with those who don’t follow Jesus?
- Read v. 6. How can our words and the tone that we use impact our ability for others to be receptive when we share the hope of Jesus?
- One of the things that makes us nervous about talking to others about Jesus is the fear that we might not know how to answer a person’s questions (v.6). How is prayer a vital part of being prepared?
- When we read v. 7-17, we see that Paul had deep, meaningful relationships that encouraged him in the midst of hardship. Do you have any close friends who are following Jesus? How might you grow in relationships with other Christ-followers?
- What are a couple areas you have grown in after spending 8 weeks in the book of Colossians? What have you learned about God? What have you learned about yourself?