

1 First

A LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS

March 1, 2020

Pastor Glenn Gunderson

HOW TO LIVE AN EPIC LIFE

Epic - A long narrative poem, which is usually related to heroic deeds of a person of unusual courage and unparalleled bravery.

DON'T GIVE INTO FALSE _____:
I AM LIKE HER/HIM, THEREFORE I AM IMPORTANT.

DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON THE _____
_____: I AM NOT LIKE HIM/HER, THEREFORE I AM
IMPORTANT.

REALIZE THAT YOU ARE FULFILLING AN _____
_____ PERSONALLY DESIGNED FOR YOU BY GOD.

BUILD _____ THAT HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR EPIC
PURPOSE:

15

15

BIG/SMALL/SERVE

OIKOS

80/10/10

7 HABITS FOR THE NEW DECADE:

(Tiny changes, when done over a decade, will lead to remarkable results!)

1. Pray for 10 minutes each day until Easter.
2. Read your Bible for 10 minutes each day until Easter.
3. Join a Life Group until Easter.
4. Talk to a serve coach or serve at Easter at Fairplex.
5. Invite one person from your oikos list to Easter at Fairplex.
6. Save 1% more each year until you are at 10% per year.
7. Give 1% more each year until you are at 10% per year.

PUT _____ FIRST!

COLOSSIANS 1:1-23

1ST GENERATION	2ND GENERATION
Does "whatever it takes"	Does "only what I'm asked to do"
Assumes personal responsibility	Assumes someone else will do it
Expects personal sacrifice	Expects personal comfort
Sees problems and seeks solutions	Sees problems and complains
Sees possibilities and dreams about what could be	Sees barriers and reasons to quit
Hears the voice of God firsthand and owns the vision	Inherits the vision secondhand and questions every decision
Steps out with bold, reckless trust in God	Sits satisfied in the stability of the institution
Fears holding anything back from God	Fears commitment
Feels privileged to be a part of the movement	Feels entitled to the benefits of the institution

JD Greear

MATTHEW 6:33

Fill in the blanks: social, identity, criticism, seesaw, epic, purpose, habits, Christ.

This Study Guide will help you go deeper throughout the week with daily scripture reading and questions for your own personal reflection and application. It is also designed to be used for discussion with your family, friends and Life Group.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING

Day 1	Colossians 1:1-2
Day 2	Colossians 1:3-8
Day 3	Colossians 1:9-14
Day 4	Colossians 1:15-20
Day 5	Colossians 1:21-23

SOAP STUDY

The SOAP study method is a simple yet powerful tool to help guide you into deeper understanding and application of the Bible. There is a section in the Growth Binder that introduces you to this method and provides pages to help you get the most out of your personal Bible study.

OPEN UP

When was the last time you received a letter, email or text that encouraged you?

UNDERSTANDING COLOSSIANS VERSES 1-2

Colossians is a letter written by Paul, the apostle, to a church in the city of Colosse. To help you understand the background of Colossians, there is a helpful nine minute video available at thebibleproject.com. While in prison, Paul was visited by Epaphras who was the founder of the Colossian church. This visit prompted Paul to write this letter to encourage the Colossians with truths about Jesus in order to help them stand up to pressure from false teachers. Paul presents Jesus as the true Lord of the universe who is FIRST in everything and gives practical teaching of what it looks like when we put Jesus FIRST in our daily lives.

THANKSGIVING VERSES 3-8

What specific things is Paul thankful for (3-8)? What is something you are especially thankful for today?

PRAYER VERSES 9-14

What are the specific things Paul prays for (9-11) ? What are you asking God for this week?

How does Paul describe our relationship to God (12-14)?

JESUS & THE CHURCH VERSES 15-20

Read verses 15-20 and create a list of the things that “He (Jesus) is.” Spend time praising Jesus for who He is in your life.

HIS WORK TOUCHES OUR LIVES VERSES 21-23

When in your life have you felt most alienated from others? From God (21-22)?

Jesus is our great Reconciler. What does this mean in our lives? (20, 22-23)

APPLICATION

Paul urges us to “continue in our faith, established and firm, and not to move from the hope held out in the gospel” (23). How firm do you feel in your faith and hope in Jesus today? Use a scale of 1-10 (1= shaky, 10=firmly rooted). Why do you feel that way?

CHALLENGE

Are your first thoughts each day about Jesus? Do you pray and depend on Him first before making decisions? Do you thank Him first when something good happens? Do you put following His will first, over following your own? What steps do you need to take in order to put Jesus FIRST in your life? What will you do today? This week?

Be intentional to share these steps with your family, a friend, or your life group. Ask how they’ve been able to do this in their own lives. Ask them to encourage you and hold you accountable for your commitments.