



March 8, 2020

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FIRST GENERATION FAITH

COLOSSIANS 1:24-2:5

MISSION	MAINTENANCE
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

REVELATION 2:1-5

“Why, Paul, if you really are God’s messenger, why are you in prison? And doesn’t that discourage you?”

A FAITH THAT _____

COLOSSIANS 1:24-26

“Joyful sacrifice is giving up something you love for something you love even more.....You rejoice in suffering when you love what you gain through suffering.....Suffering is the means by which God has ordained bringing salvation to the world.....Life in the world comes only through death in the church.”

JD Greear

“It wouldn’t matter if Jesus died 1000 times if no one ever heard about it.”

Martin Luther

“The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.”

Carl Henry

“Christ’s cross was for propitiation; ours is for propagation. Christ suffered to accomplish salvation; we suffer to spread salvation.”

Romanian Pastor

“...And our willingness to endure hardship for the good of others is a filling up of Christ’s afflictions because it extends the benefits of Christ’s death to others and makes them visible.”

John Piper

JOHN 20:21

ROMANS 1:14

MICAH 6:8

A FAITH THAT IS FOR _____

COLOSSIANS 1:27-29

A FAITH THAT IS WORTH IT BECAUSE OF _____!

COLOSSIANS 2:1-5

Fill in the blanks: sacrifices, everyone, Jesus.

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 1:24-25
Day 2	Colossians 1:26-27
Day 3	Colossians 1:28-29
Day 4	Colossians 2:1-3
Day 5	Colossians 2:4-5

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

Describe a time when you suffered for the benefit of others or a time when someone else suffered for your benefit.

UNDERSTANDING COLOSSIANS

Paul is writing from a Roman jail. He was able to see that his current suffering was resulting in good for the Christian churches. Paul once persecuted the church, but is now found offering his life to serve her. He was overjoyed knowing that God was using him to expand the Kingdom and encourage others. His pen was filled with love as he wrote to challenge and equip the Colossians to put Jesus FIRST in their lives and in the church.

PAUL'S LABOR 1:24-25

How is Paul able to rejoice in his suffering?

What are some ways that our suffering for Christ can help others to know “the word of God in its fullness”?

MYSTERY REVEALED 1:26-27

What are some ways that you see the mystery of Christ “hidden” from the people around you?

Who is someone that revealed Christ to you by the way they lived everyday life?

CHRIST IN YOU 1:28-29

How would you describe Paul’s tone and sense of urgency in these verses?

Paul exhibits extreme efforts to reach people for Christ while exemplifying complete dependence on God. Which do you need more of in your life?

UNDERSTANDING COLOSSIANS 2:1

Laodicea was a city only about 11 miles from Colosse. This letter from Paul was to be read to the church in Laodicea after it was read in Colosse (see 4:16).

HEARTS ENCOURAGED 2:1-3

What is Paul’s goal in writing to these churches?

CONCERNED AND DELIGHTED 2:4-5

What is Paul concerned about for the Colossians? What is he delighted by?

What are some “fine sounding” arguments that may draw Christians away from their faith today?

APPLICATION

Who is God calling you to suffer for, labor on behalf of, or encourage in heart? What is God calling you to do?

CHALLENGE

Schedule one intentional time in your week to connect with the person you identified above and to do what God is calling you to do.