

JESUS >

A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

February 7, 2021

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JESUS > STATUS QUO

COLOSSIANS WAS A LETTER WRITTEN BY THE APOSTLE PAUL FROM PRISON IN THE YEAR 60 AD TO THE DIVERSE HOUSE CHURCHES IN THE TOWN OF COLOSSAE.

AN ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TODAY

COLOSSIANS 1:1; COLOSSIANS 1:2

NO ONE IS AN 'ONLY-CHILD' IN THE FAMILY OF GOD.

"Five times Paul uses the phrase Christ 'in me' or 'in us' ... and 164 times Paul calls the Christian to be 'in Christ'... If our view of Christianity is limited to Christ being 'in me' or 'in us,' we will never have the theological resources to join him in works of reconciliation and justice. But if our view is expanded to see faith as fundamentally about being 'in Christ,' our framework changes. Our very identity is seen through the lens of being joined to Christ, and we look to participate in the kingdom work Jesus is always doing."

Dr. Klyne Snodgrass, New Testament scholar

EXTEND GRACE THIS WEEK TO SOMEBODY YOU DISAGREED WITH LAST WEEK.

COLOSSIANS 1:3-5

WHAT YOU CHEER ON WILL CARRY ON!

"Who needs encouragement? Anyone who is breathing!"

S. Truett Cathy, founder of Chick-fil-A

"Faith is leaning your whole weight upon something."

John G. Paton, 19th century Scottish missionary, abolitionist, and activist

COLOSSIANS 1:6; COLOSSIANS 1:7

**THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE EVERYWHERE AND HAS THE
POWER TO REACH EVERYONE EVERYWHERE!**

WHO WILL LEARN ABOUT THE GOSPEL FROM YOU?

I WILL SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH _____ THIS YEAR!

A CHALLENGE FOR TOMORROW

COLOSSIANS 1:9; PHILIPPIANS 3:7-9

HOW CAN CHRISTIANS AVOID STATUS QUO AND LIVE DIFFERENTLY IN THE WORLD?

#1 - AIM TO _____ JESUS.

COLOSSIANS 1:10A

THIS WEEK "I GET TO" _____, BECAUSE IT PLEASES JESUS!

#2 - _____ OTHERS TO GOD.

COLOSSIANS 1:10B

"Are you here on earth to serve or to be served?"

Lead Like Jesus

MATTHEW 5:16

#3 - COMMIT TO _____ GROWING.

COLOSSIANS 1:10C; PROVERBS 9:9; PROVERBS 6:20

"All of the New Testament writers (except Luke) were Jews, they were already God's chosen people, what motive would they have for wanting to invent a resurrected Jesus? This got them excommunicated from synagogues, beaten, tortured and killed. Last time I checked that was not on a list of perks."

Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek

#4 - BECOME _____ AND _____.

COLOSSIANS 1:11

YOU CANNOT BECOME AN ENDURING AND PATIENT PERSON WITHOUT HAVING SOMETHING DIFFICULT TO ENDURE AND SOMEONE DIFFICULT TO BE PATIENT WITH.

#5 - EXPRESS _____ ABOUT BEING IN GOD'S KINGDOM.

COLOSSIANS 1:12

JOY IS THE GREATEST WEAPON AGAINST JEALOUSY!

#6 - BE _____ WITH THE GOSPEL.

COLOSSIANS 1:13-14

Fill in the blanks: please, point, always, resilient, patient, joy, obsessed

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A STUDY THROUGH THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 1

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 1:3-6
- Day 3 Colossians 1:6-8
- Day 4 Colossians 1:9-12
- Day 5 Colossians 1:13-14

DAILY READING JOURNAL

Be sure to get a Daily Reading Journal to help you read and apply Colossians throughout the week. These journals use the SOAP method, a simple yet powerful tool, to help guide you into deeper understanding and application of the Bible. Whether you are reading Colossians for the first time, or have studied it numerous times, the journals are designed to help you grow in your daily Bible reading each day.

OPEN UP

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

UNDERSTANDING COLOSSIANS VERSES 1:1-2

Colossians is a letter written by Paul, the apostle, to a church in the city of Colossae. 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. The people that Paul was writing to were confronted with teaching that tempted them to engage in futile efforts to find meaning by blending together ideas from various religions with the secular philosophies of the day. Paul writes to point them to the truth they can build their lives upon: Jesus is > anything they face in their everyday lives. 2000 years later, this powerful message of hope and encouragement is just as relevant today.

OPENING GREETING VERSES 1:1-2

What stands out to you about the way Paul refers to and greets the Colossians (1:2)?

THANKSGIVING VERSES 1:3-8

Paul hasn't met the people in Colossae (2:1), yet he feels a connection with them. Why (1:3-8)?

Where does Paul say faith and love "spring from" (1:5)? How could this study renew your "hope that is stored up in heaven" so that new faith and love springs forth from you?

Epaphras (1:7) was instrumental in sharing "God's grace in all it's truth" with the Colossians. Who was instrumental in sharing God's grace in all it's truth with you?

PRAYER VERSES 1:9-14

What are the specific things Paul prays for the Colossians (1:9-11)?

How does Paul describe our relationship to God (1:12-14)?

APPLICATION

How full are your hope, faith and love "tanks" right now? Which one feels most empty? Most full?

CHALLENGE

Rewrite verses 1:9-14 in the first person as a prayer for yourself? Pray this prayer for yourself each day this week.

Bonus Challenge: Choose one person and insert their name in verses 1:9-14 and pray this powerful prayer for them each day.