

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: **Colossians Series**

Sermon Title: **Christ is First in Good News**

Scripture Passage: **Colossians 1:1-8**

Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

1. As we begin this new series in Colossians, we'll start with some basic information about the Epistle. Luke tells us that during Paul's three-year stay in Ephesus on his third missionary journey, "...all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord..." (Acts 19:10). It was at this time that the churches in Laodicea, Hierapolis, and Colossae got their start. But the believers in Colossae did not hear the Gospel from Paul.
 - a. According to Colossians 1:5-7, who did the Colossians hear the Gospel from?
 - b. According to Colossians 4:12, Epaphras was a native of what city?
 - c. Do a little research. What was the "Colossian heresy" regarding false teaching about who Jesus was and how does this relate to the core message of Paul's letter to the Colossians?

Observation Discovering the context

2. Paul begins his letter by introducing himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ. What is an "apostle?"

3. According to Colossians 1:1, how did Paul become an apostle?
4. Who was Paul's collaborator in this letter?
5. Paul commends the Colossians for their faith. The word "faith" is the Greek word "pistis" which comes from the root word "peitho" which means to obey. According to Hebrews 11:1, what is faith?
6. In verse 5, Paul praises the Colossians for their continued hope in what?
7. In 1 Peter 1:4, heaven is described as what?

Interpretation Discovering the meaning

8. In verse 7, Paul refers to Epaphras as a "fellow servant" (ESV. The New American Standard translation uses the term "bond-servant"). Paul often referred to himself as a "bond-servant" (Romans 1:1, Philippians 1:1, Galatians 1:10 and Titus 1:1). Do a little research.
 - a. Study Exodus 21:5-6. How did one become a bond-servant in the days of Moses?
 - b. What are the distinguishing characteristics of a "bond-servant" and why do you think Paul would so consistently refer to himself this way?
 - c. What about being known as a "bond-servant" might be considered counter-cultural to Christians of our day?

Core Truths Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

Practice Makes Progress Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

Worth Memorizing

Scripture: *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life (Romans 6:22).*

Prayer Time

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

Praise Time

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?