

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: Colossians Series

Sermon Title: **Seven Secrets to a Successful Life**

Scripture Passage: **Colossians 1:9-14**

Getting Started Sharing from personal experience

1. Colossians was written to Christians facing challenges. False teachers were urging them to add rule, ascetic practices and new unbiblical philosophies to their faith in Christ. Paul never traveled to Colossae, located about 100 miles east of Ephesus and 12 miles from Laodicea, but somehow he met Epaphras, the man who had taken the Gospel to Colossae, Philemon, the host for the local house church. The temptation for “superior knowledge” is a common theme in the New Testament. You may have heard of the Gnostics? They were never satisfied with the sufficiency of the cross and were always pushing for “new knowledge and a deeper religious experience. **Q: Why do you think some people are never satisfied with the fullness of Christ today? What compels people to want to add more “spirituality” to Jesus’ finished work on the cross?**

Observation Discovering the context

2. After affirming their strengths in verses 9-14 Paul tells the Colossians how he is praying for them. Study verses 9-14 to discover and write down Paul’s prayer requests for how the Colossians would think and act?

3. Spiritual wisdom, understanding and knowledge of God’s will come from the Word of God. From what far less helpful sources do many people turn today (perhaps even Christians) for “spiritual wisdom and understanding?”

4. According to Paul, true knowledge leads to a “life worthy of the Lord.” What qualities of believers please the Lord and where in scripture did you find your answers? Try to list at least five.

5. In what specific ways do you see the Lord developing these qualities in your own life?

6. In verses 12-14, how does Paul contrast our human condition before and after we became Christians?

7. Try a meaningful exercise. Reread verses 12-14, this time, putting your name in place of where Paul uses “you, us, and we.” Share with your group what, if any, difference it made when you made God’s Word more *personal*.

Interpretation Discovering the meaning

According to Philippians 3:7-8 Paul felt that his knowledge of Christ was worth everything he suffered or lost. He called them “garbage.” We might say “good riddance to bad rubbish!” What things have you discarded, walked away from or said “good riddance” to for the sake of following Jesus?

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: He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14

Prayer Time

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

Praise Time

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?