

## WEEK 4 (March 20-26)

### ADDING 'SAINT' TO YOUR RESUME

- Read Colossians 1:1-2:5 in one sitting.
- Reflect on Colossians 1:1-2.

PRAY THAT CHRIST WOULD SHOW YOU WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SAINT.

Paul calls himself an 'apostle.' The apostles were Christ's ambassadors. They carried out His ministry and teachings. But who is Paul an apostle of? How did he become an apostle? (Think about what Colossians says first, and then read Acts 8:1-25 and Acts 9:1-22.)

With whom is Paul writing his letter (Col 1:1)? Look up this individual in a concordance, or search for his name on Bible.Logos.com or in Bible software. What did you learn about him?

Who is Paul's letter addressed to (Col 1:2)?

Colossians 1:2 talks about 'saints.' 'Saint' is a status given to you when you believe in Christ, not a status to be earned. It means "holy one." All who believe in Christ have been made holy in His eyes. So, as Mark Driscoll once said, go add 'Saint' to your business card and resume.

What are the two things Paul wishes for the church at Colossae (Col 1:2)?

The title of 'saint' has been given to you freely through Christ's grace. You can have peace through the Holy Spirit. How does this change your perspective? Since you are constantly representing Christ as His saint, how should your interactions with other people change?

Continue to reflect & pray through these questions throughout your week.

## March 2016

### "Not Your Average" Bible Study

#### Being like Jesus 8 Weeks in the Beginning of Colossians

## WEEK 1 (Feb. 28-March 5)

### TASTE-TESTING COLOSSIANS

- Read all of Colossians in one sitting, out loud.

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD REVEAL THE MESSAGE OF COLOSSIANS TO YOU.

⏪ This letter was meant to be read out loud; so we need to "hear" it, before we can interpret it (4:16). (Double underline transition words like 'now,' 'therefore,' 'yet' and 'but,' as well as negations like 'no' and 'not.')

Read all the verses again where these transition words are used. Write a short summary of each of these verses. What do these verses tell you about the general gist of the letter?

Now we have taste-tested Colossians – had a bit of an appetizer. But let's get to the main course. The first step in doing so is to pray. The late scholar Brevard Childs once said, "Herein lies the secret of biblical interpretation: Wherever the Spirit is not present there is no great explanation possible." If you want to understand Paul's letter, if you want to hear God, listen to the Spirit. Move Christ to the center of all you do.

Continue to reflect & pray through these questions throughout your week.

## **WEEK 2 (MARCH 6-12)**

### THE MAIN COURSE OF COLOSSIANS

#### ➤ **Read all of Colossians in one sitting, out loud.**

PRAY THAT GOD WOULD STRENGTHEN YOU THROUGH CHRIST AND THE SPIRIT.

This will allow you to see how the ideas Paul develops later in the letter are based upon what he says at the beginning. (Draw square brackets or a box around the words 'first,' 'new,' 'light,' 'alive' and 'hidden.')

Read out loud each of the lines with a key word in it. Who is at the center of Paul's theology? (Who is he writing about?) Describe in four adjectives (description words) how Paul understands this character. How should Paul's understanding of this character shape the way we look at the world?

What important events changed the world? How do these events affect our lives?

Last week, we taste-tested Colossians. Now we are beginning to digest our main meal: to get inside Paul's head and understand his theology. When we combine this with prayer, we get an incredible result: theology shaped by our experiences – an understanding of God that is based (in part) in contemplation, prayer, and practice. At the center of Colossians is the idea that our understanding of Christ directly reflects upon how we live: If we don't understand Him, we can't live like Him. Being like Christ means finding Christ everywhere – in all parts of life. Seeing Him in everything is a constant reminder that we need to show Him to others.

Continue to reflect & pray through these questions throughout your week.

## **WEEK 3 (MARCH 13-19)**

### COLOSSIANS IS ABOUT CHRIST – AND OUR ACTIONS IN HIM

#### ➤ **Read all of Colossians in one sitting, out loud.**

PRAY FOR THE POWER TO ACT ON GOD'S CALLING EVERY DAY – IN EVERY MOMENT.

Reading a biblical book repeatedly helps us key in on phrases and ideas we would usually brush over. (Underline key verbs (action words) like 'love,' 'hear,' 'thank,' 'put,' 'pass,' 'pray,' 'give,' and 'open.')

Read out loud all the verses with key verbs. What message becomes clear when you do so? What would change about your life if you lived by all these verses? Keep in mind that it was not Paul's intention to create a rulebook. Nonetheless, we can't be at peace with one another if we don't obey the God who created us.

Choose seven ideas Paul emphasizes that you can work on. Write a three-to-four word summary of each idea. Each morning this week, pray about one of the seven ideas. Journal each night, even in just a few short sentences, how you implemented that idea throughout your day. How did it change your interactions with other people? How did it change your view of God? Imagine what our world would be like if we all lived the words of Colossians each day.

Continue to reflect & pray through these questions throughout your week.