

# COLOSSIANS

## Session 1 // Faith, Hope, and Love

**Connect** - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- What culture is man creating in America? Why do you think this is?
- What culture is found at Vaughn Forest Church? Why do you think this is?
- What culture is prevalent in your community? Why do you think this is?

Read Colossians 1:1-8

### Grow / Share

1. Paul speaks of the people of Colossae as having already placed their faith in Jesus [past], presently loving God's people, and placing hope in heaven. What do these verses indicate about faith, love, and hope in reference to the past, present, and future?
2. How does a person know their eternal destination is secure?
3. What evidence is there that "the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world?"
4. How does a believer contribute to bearing fruit and spreading the gospel?
5. How should a person's life be different if they know they have eternal security?
6. What can a person learn about sharing Jesus with others through Epaphras' example?
7. What fruit is exemplified by Evangelist Epaphras?
8. Who around us can we be building relationships with to share the Good News?
9. Who was the person who shared the Good News with you? Have you had an opportunity to thank that person?

### Serve

Pray God will bring someone into your life to share the Good News and to invite into your Life Group.

### Digging Deeper

Who was your Epaphras?

Whose Epaphras will you be?

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## Session 2 // A Believing Prisoner's Prayer

**Connect** - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- How is prayer more about relationship than results? Relationship with whom? Why?
- What promises does God give to the believer who prays?
- Why is prayer so important?

Read Colossians 1:9-14

**Grow / Share**

1. What promises does Paul speak of in his prayer over the believers of Colossae?
2. Paul indicates that believers should pray about:
  - Asking God to fill us with the knowledge of His will with spiritual wisdom and understanding... How can a person know His will? How does a person gain spiritual wisdom and understanding? How is knowing the will of God related to knowing the Word of God?
  - Living a life worthy of the Lord and pleasing Him in every way...How does a person please God?
  - Bearing fruit in every good work...How does a believer bear fruit in EVERY good work?
  - Growing in the knowledge of God...How can a person best grow in the knowledge of God?
  - Being strengthened with His might with great endurance and patience...How does a believer get strength from the Lord?
  - Giving joyful thanks for sharing in the inheritance of His Kingdom...How can a person proactively give joyful thanks in their life?
  - Being rescued from darkness, brought into Light, and redeemed from sin...How might a believer express their metamorphosis from death to life in receiving salvation?
3. Which of these prayer aspects do you think is the most important for a believer? Why?
4. Which of these prayer aspects may be needed in your life or the life of someone you influence? Why?

**Serve**

Pray God will deepen your intercessory prayer life.

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## Digging Deeper

**How To Pray for Other Christians...**Your Children, Your Spouse, Your Friends...

How many people in your life could be touched if you prayed in this way?

- Be thankful for their faith and changed lives (v 3)
- Ask God to help them know what He wants them to do (v 9)
- Ask God to give them deep spiritual understanding (v 9)
- Ask God to help them live for Him (v 10)
- Ask God to give them more knowledge of Himself (v 10)
- Ask God to give them strength for endurance (v 11)
- Ask God to fill them with joy, strength, and thankfulness (v 11)

*(Life Application Study Bible)*

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## Session 3 // The Supreme Savior

**Connect** - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.

- What do you desire to be “supreme” in your life? Why? What in reality is actually “supreme” in your life? Why?
- How can a person best achieve a shift from what is reality to what is ideal or to what is desired?
- What is Jesus supreme over? How would you support your answer?

Read Colossians 1:15-23

**Grow / Share**

1. Since Jesus is the image of the invisible God, what should this tell us about Jesus?
2. What is the relationship between Jesus and Creation? (Colossians 1:15-17, John 1:3 and John 1:10) Why is understanding this relationship significant for a believer?
3. How do people find value in the fact that God created them? How does a person find value in the fact that they were created for Him? And for His purpose?
4. What does Jesus model for believers as Head of the Church? How should Jesus’ role as Head of the Church impact the local church? Impact Believers?
5. If all people are sinners, including believers, how does God make saints “holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation?” (v 22)
6. Jesus has supremacy over everything (v 18)...why then do people struggle with giving Him sovereignty over some areas?
7. It’s God’s sovereignty that makes Him superior to all other gods and makes Him, and Him alone, worthy of worship (Chip Ingram). How can believers proclaim and demonstrate that He is sovereign in their lives?
8. Paul tells believers to continue in their faith, “established and firm.” What does this indicate about a person’s past, present, and future?

**Serve**

In what areas of your life do you need to remember Jesus’ supremacy? Pray God will be supreme and sovereign in your life!

**Digging Deeper**

Contemplate: All of creation exists and is sustained by Him (His plan), for Him (His pleasure), and in Him (His power).

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## Session 4 // An Evangelist's Ministry

**Connect - These questions help get the conversation started. Pick one or two.**

- What is the mystery that has been revealed to the saints?
- Why did God chose to keep this mystery hidden until the First Century?
- How are today's believers to live with this revealed mystery?

Read Colossians 1:24-29

### Grow / Share

1. The mystery is that "Christ lives in us," how do believers exemplify this in today's culture?
2. How are today's believers to reveal this mystery to others?
3. What's the difference between "Christ and us" and "Christ in us?" How might this be lived out differently?
4. How does a person know if they are fulfilling their God-given ministry?
5. What's the significance of both Jews and Gentiles being a part of God's family?
6. Paul tells believers that we should warn and teach others to present them "perfect" [mature], is there someone you need to speak with who needs to be warned or taught about Christ so that they will grow in maturity?
7. Have you experienced suffering? How have you handled suffering? Did it alter your life?
8. What was or what could be the outcome of a person who suffers? How does a believer prevail through suffering?
9. Why and how do believers rejoice in suffering?

### Serve

Pray God will reveal His mystery of "Christ in us" every waking moment of our lives.

### Digging Deeper

Making the mystery of the Gospel known will be coupled with suffering:

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:1-4