
THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE

COLOSSIANS

Cedarcreek Corporate Study

SCHEDULE:

Sunday, October 22nd

Colossians 1

Sunday, October 29th

Colossians 2

Sunday, November 5th

Colossians 3

Sunday, November 12th

Colossians 4

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Colossians 1: Purchased

Sunday, October 22nd

Paul's Testimony

Colossians 1:1-2
Acts 9

Domain of Darkness

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

Our Hero

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him – Colossians 1:15-16, (17-20)

Our Condition

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, - Colossians 1:21

Romans 3:10-11

John 3:19b-20

Purchased

22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him – Colossians 1:22

Reconciled [NW1828]: Brought into friendship from a state of disagreement or enmity; made consistent; adjusted.

Life Group Study Guide – Colossians 1: Purchased

Pray.

Read Colossians 1 together.

As a group discuss what stood out to you.

The following questions are to prompt discussion:

Paul's testimony was powerful. His story displayed God's mighty working in his life. What is your testimony? Share your testimony with your life group. (Acts 9, Colossians 1:1-2)

Describe a time you were in total darkness. How did you feel?

Describe what "alienated from God" looks like.

How does remembering our testimony help us do what Paul describes in Colossians 1:28-29?

Monday, October 23rd

Read Colossians Chapter 1

Focus Passage: Colossians 1:1-5

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,

What evidence of others' faith encourages you?

Tuesday, October 24th

Read Colossians Chapter 1

Focus Passage: Colossians 1:6-8

6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Does the hope laid up for you in heaven and/or the truth of the Gospel motivate you? How so?

Wednesday, October 25th

Read Colossians Chapter 1

Focus Passages: Colossians 1:9-12, 13-14

9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Do we pray for this for ourselves? For others? How have you seen God work this in your life or in others' lives?

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

Moving from darkness to light invokes powerful imagery. How might you relate to this picture?

Thursday, October 26th

Read Colossians Chapter 1

Focus Passage: Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

What does this passage say about God specifically? Are there pieces of this description that resonate with you more than others?

Friday, October 27th

Read Colossians Chapter 1

Focus Passages: Colossians 1:21-22, 24-26

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him

How does this make you view the human condition? How might this truth impact your self-image?

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

When might we suffer for the benefit of others?

What can make this difficult?

Colossians 2: Planted

Sunday, October 29th

Planted to Proclaim

paralogízomai; to misreckon, i.e. delude:—beguile, deceive.

22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. – James 1:22

Planted Produces Faith

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. – John 15:5

The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:5b-7

Planted Produces Passion

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. – Colossians 2:8

Planted Produces Prudence

19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God. – Colossians 2:19

Life Group Study Guide – Colossians 2: Planted

Pray.

Read Colossians 2 together.

As a group discuss what stood out to you.

The following questions are to prompt discussion:

Why does being purchased by Christ make us want to proclaim the gospel? (Colossians 1:28-2:3)

How can being planted in Jesus produce faith?

Are you passionate about the Gospel and the Word? Why or why not? How does your passion or lack-there-of affect the world around you?

Name a time being planted in the Word produced prudence or wisdom in your life that helped you navigate a difficult situation.

Monday, October 30th

Read Colossians Chapter 2

Focus Passage: Colossians 2:1-3

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Having encouraged hearts and hearts that are joined together in love help us have assured understanding and knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ. How have you seen Christian community impact your understanding, knowledge and assurance of Christ in your life?

Tuesday, October 31st

Read Colossians Chapter 2

Focus Passage: Colossians 2:4

4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments.

If we include verses 1-3, Paul says that community can combat deceptive arguments. How does that happen?

Wednesday, November 1st

Read Colossians Chapter 2

Focus Passage: Colossians 2:8-15

8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10 and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11 In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

Paul identifies a risk in verse 8. How do we protect ourselves as a Christian community from collectively accepting deceptive arguments?

Thursday, November 2nd

Read Colossians Chapter 2

Focus Passage: Colossians 2:16-19

16 Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. 17 These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

How hard is it for you to stand on your convictions when others around you have contrary opinions/convictions? What makes it easy or hard for you?

Friday, November 3rd

Read Colossians Chapter 2

Focus Passage: Colossians 2:20-23

20 If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— 21 “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” 22 (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

These practices outlined in the surrounding verses have no value in curbing self-indulgence. What does?

Colossians 3: Practiced

Sunday, November 5th

Practiced with Purpose

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. – Colossians 3:1-2

Practiced Putting off the Old Self

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. – Colossians 3:5-6

Practiced Putting on the New Self

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. – Colossians 3:12-13

Practiced Living as Intended

23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ – Colossians 3:23

Life Group Study Guide – Colossians 3: Practiced

Pray.

Read Colossians 3 together.

As a group discuss what stood out to you.

The following questions are to prompt discussion:

We are to practice on purpose, keeping our minds set on Christ and on eternity. What are helpful tools you have found to aid you in this endeavor?

How has God challenged you in the past to practice putting off the old self?

What areas are you actively practicing putting on the new self? Are there ways we can pray for you to practice putting on the new self?

How has practicing living as God intended been difficult for you?

Monday, November 6th

Read Colossians Chapter 3

Focus Passage: Colossians 3:1-4

1 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

What does it mean to seek what is above and set our minds on what is above? What does that look like? How has that looked in your life?

Tuesday, November 7th

Read Colossians Chapter 3

Focus Passage: Colossians 3:5-11

5 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.

How do we put to death what is earthly in ourselves? The text implies here that there is effort involved on our part; what does that look like?

Wednesday, November 8th

Read Colossians Chapter 3

Focus Passage: Colossians 3:12-16, 17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

God commands us to put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience and many other things. How do we do this? Does this list overwhelm you, why or why not?

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

How can we do everything in the name of the Lord?

Thursday, November 9th

Read Colossians Chapter 3

Focus Passage: Colossians 3:18-19

18 Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

What does it mean for wives to submit to husbands? Are there limits to submission and what does that look like? How does our sinful nature like to twist texts like these that speak of submission?

19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

What does it mean for husbands to love their wives? Are there universal “steps” or “actions” that husbands can take? How much of obeying this command is tied up in knowing our wives?

Friday, November 10th

Read Colossians Chapter 3

Focus Passage: Colossians 3:22-25

22 Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

God calls out our human tendency towards not doing things with sincerity of heart. How have you've wrestled through having a sincere heart?

Colossians 4: Prayerful

Sunday, November 12th

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. – Colossians 4:2-4

PRAYER [NW1828] In a general sense, the act of asking for a favor, and particularly with earnestness.

1. In worship, a solemn address to the Supreme Being, consisting of adoration, or an expression of our sense of God's glorious perfections, confession of our sins, supplication for mercy and forgiveness, intercession for blessings on others, and thanksgiving, or an expression of gratitude to God for his mercies and benefits. A prayer however may consist of a single petition, and it may be extemporaneous, written or printed.

Continue in Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Ephesians 2:7

Philippians 3:8

Steadfast in Prayer

Colossians 4:12

Watchful in Prayer

WATCHFUL [NW1828] Vigilant; attentive; careful to observe; observant; cautious. It has of before the thing to be regulated, as to be watchful of ones behavior; and against, before the thing to be avoided, as to be watchful against the growth of vicious habits.

James 4:1-3

James 4:4-6

Psalms 51:17

2 Corinthians 13:5

Thankful in Prayer

Deuteronomy 6:10-15

Intercessory Prayer

James 5:16b

Prayer for Opportunity**Prayer for Courage**

Life Group Study Guide – Colossians 4: Prayerful

Pray.

Read Colossians 4 together.

As a group discuss what stood out to you.

The following questions are to prompt discussion:

What is the most common time throughout your day that you find yourself praying?

What tools, techniques or tips have been helpful to you to be regularly prayerful?

How has being thankful in prayer helped you in difficult times?

How has being thankful in prayer helped you in prosperous times?

How have you seen God work in the lives of people you're praying for?

What opportunities to share the Gospel have you been praying for?
How have you seen God open doors to share the Gospel?

Monday, November 13th

Read Colossians Chapter 4

Focus Passage: Colossians 4:1-4

1 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. 3 At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— 4 that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

We're asked to 'devote ourselves to prayer' or to "continue steadfastly in prayer" and to be watchful/alert in it. Is this easy for you? Have you attempted to grow in this area and what have you done?

Tuesday, November 14th

Read Colossians Chapter 4

Focus Passage: Colossians 4:5

5 Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

What does it look like to walk in wisdom towards outsiders? How does this help us make the best use of our time?

Wednesday, November 15th

Read Colossians Chapter 4

Focus Passage: Colossians 4:6

6 Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

What steps can we take to ensure our speech is gracious and seasoned with salt?

Thursday, November 16th

Read Colossians Chapter 4

Focus Passage: Colossians 4:7-11, 14-18

7 Tychicus will tell you all about my activities. He is a beloved brother and faithful minister and fellow servant in the Lord. 8 I have sent him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are and that he may encourage your hearts, 9 and with him Onesimus, our faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will tell you of everything that has taken place here.

10 Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), 11 and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me. [...]

14 Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas. 15 Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her house. 16 And when this letter has been read among you, have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. 17 And say to Archippus, “See that you fulfill the ministry that you have received in the Lord.”

18 I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.

It is good to share with each other how God is working in our lives. How is God working in your life? Share with one person today how God is working presently in you.

Friday, November 17th

Read Colossians Chapter 4

Focus Passage: Colossians 4:12-13

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, that you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.

Epaphras struggled/labored in his prayers. This implies the prayer can be laborious. How much ought we labor in our prayers? What does laboring in prayer look like for you?