

“More Than Enough”:
The All-Sufficiency of Christ in Paul’s Letter to the Colossians
Sermon Notes

➤ **We believe (as we should) in the sufficiency of Scripture, yet behind this glorious truth is our all-sufficient Savior**

Author(s) (1:1) -

Recipients (1:2) -

Key Themes & Application for Today:

**The Colossian church found themselves swimming in a sea of error, so Paul sought to strengthen their hand in a letter proclaiming that for Christians...*

1. Christ is enough (1:15-20; 2:2-5, 8-10)

2. Identity is essential (1:1-2, 13-14, 21-22, 27; 2:10-15; 3:1-3, 12)

3. Transformation is not optional (1:9-11, 28-29; 2:6-7; 3:1-4:1)

4. Thanksgiving is inescapable (1:3, 12; 2:7; 3:15, 16, 17; 4:2)

5. The future is already (and not yet) (1:13; 2:12; 3:1, →1:5, 27; 3:4)

6. The mission is on (1:6-8, 24-29; 4:2-6, 7-18)

Next Sunday: Colossians 1:3-8 - “The Hope Laid Up for You in Heaven”

Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of September 12th - 18th

Getting Started

1. What's your experience with Paul's letter to the Colossians? If you have some familiarity with it, what are one or two of your favorite truths contained in this epistle? Why are they so precious to you?

Digging Deeper

2. Read straight through this letter aloud as a group. It's not lengthy (it shouldn't take longer than 15 minutes). As you go, make note of the key themes from Sunday's sermon, or keep your eyes peeled for themes you spot on your own. Feel free to share reading duties, and be sure to discuss your reflections together once you've finished.

Open Your Bible To Colossians 1:1-2...

3. In verse 2, Paul refers to the recipients of this letter as "saints". In these brief chapters, he uses this word on four separate occasions (1:2, 1:4, 1:12, and 1:26 - some 40 times across all 13 of his letters...that's nearly half of all the occurrences of this word in the whole Bible). For Paul, a "saint" isn't a special class of Christian, but rather a term he used of all Christians. Interestingly, the word for "sinner" appears 68 times from Old to New Testament. Yet nearly 99% of the time, the word "sinner" appears as a synonym for "unbeliever"¹. Why do you think we tend to have these exactly backward in the evangelical church today? Put another way, why is it that we avoid using a relatively common Bible word for Christians ("saint") but seem to have little trouble using a word for ourselves that the Bible almost never uses to describe a believer ("sinner")?
4. During our series on prayer this past summer, knowing we might begin a study of Colossians this fall, we decided not to include Paul's prayer in 1:9-12. Though we hope to take a closer look at it in a few weeks, read through it once more in your group. What's Paul's central petition in this prayer of intercession? Do you tend to pray this way for other believers? Why or why not? Are there any parts of this prayer that aren't as typical of the way that you pray for other Christians? Which one(s)?
5. Sanctification is a significant theme in this epistle. In what ways do you see Paul's burden for ongoing growth in holiness for the church in Colossae? What sorts of specific sins does he call them to put to death? What sorts of specific character qualities does he call them to cultivate? What's one specific area of needed growth in your life in which the Lord is dealing with you at the present moment? How can your group be praying for you? How can you be praying for those in your group?
6. Obviously, one of the high-water marks of this letter is the doctrinal confession about

¹ The one clear exception being Paul's own present-tense use of the word "sinner" to refer to himself in 1 Timothy 1:15.

Christ in 1:15-20. How many different truths about our Savior can you spot in these verses? Paul follows this confession with immediate practical application in 1:21-23. There's a promise for believers in these verses, but there's also a warning. Take some time to identify and discuss each one.

7. Colossians also bears the clear marks of the forward motion of the Great Commission. Take another look at 1:6-8, 1:24-29, 4:2-6, and 4:7-18. How do these portions of the letter inform or inspire your own pursuit of the folks on your 'List of 5'? What's one practical step you can take toward them this week?