

“All the Treasures of Wisdom & Knowledge”

Sermon Notes

➤ **Walking with Jesus all the way to heaven would be a breeze if there weren't 10,000 temptations along the way**

*So...

1. Embrace the all-sufficiency of Christ for all of life (vv.1-3)

2. Resist the siren songs of sin which bring forth death (v.4)

3. Enjoy the daily habits of grace that lead you home (v.5)

Next Sunday: Colossians 2:6-7 - “Abounding in Thanksgiving”

Community Group Study Guide

For the Week of November 14th-20th

Getting Started

1. We are now nine sermons deep into our study of Paul's letter to the Colossians (that's all of page 983 in the red Bibles). It's a good opportunity to pause and reflect. Take a moment to share with one another as a group. What are your impressions of this book of the Bible so far? What particular truths have been especially encouraging to you (pointing to specific verses as you share)?

Digging Deeper

2. While this letter is without a doubt a great source of encouragement to us as believers, it's also designed to bring sharpening and maturity to our lives. Are there any parts in particular that you've found uniquely challenging or perhaps puzzling? If so, which ones (again sharing specific verses)?

Open Your Bible to Colossians 1:2...

3. In verse 2, Paul addresses this letter "To the *saints* and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae". Earlier in this series, we began to address the theme in Colossians that *identity is essential*. The primary identity that Paul immediately presses home to this church is that they are *saints* (a rather common 1st century expression for Paul that he uses to speak of ordinary believers over 40 times in the New Testament). Why do you suppose it to be the case that it is far more likely to hear a believer in the 21st century refer to themselves as a "sinner" rather than a "saint" (despite the fact that in 67 of the 68 occurrences¹ of the word "sinner" in the Bible is used as a synonym for "unbeliever")? It's the rare Christian today who wouldn't hesitate to take on the identity of "sinner", and yet would hesitate to identify as a "saint". Is this something that ought to concern us? Might this have practical implications in our lives? If so, what?
4. In Colossians 1:6, Paul reminds the Colossian believers of when they first "heard...and understood the grace of God in truth". If you are a Christian, do you remember what that was like for you? Think back a bit. Have one or two of you in the group share about the circumstances surrounding that moment of life, and what it meant for you to first understand and embrace the gospel. Who is one person in your life for whom you long for this to happen as well? When was the last time you sought to B.L.E.S.S.² them in a meaningful way (see footnote below)?
5. Read carefully through Paul's prayer in 1:9-14. What's the central petition that he brings

¹ The one exception is Paul's reference to himself in 1 Timothy 1:15. Otherwise 98.5% of the time, in the Bible, "sinner" is a synonym for "unbeliever".

² **B**e in prayer. **L**isten to them. **E**at and drink with them. **S**erve (or be served by) them. **S**hare your story or the story of the gospel with them.

before the Lord on behalf of the Colossian believers (*hint*: if you get stuck, it's in verse 9)? On the surface, it's a common enough request. We tend to pray for this one quite a bit, don't we? And yet, it's the way that Paul frames his petition that's so stunning. In other words, this prayer is about far, far more than the petition on the front end. As you work your way through the rest of the prayer (in vv.10-14), what do you discover about *why* Paul asks the Lord for what he does in verse 9? How might our prayers for this common request in the Christian life benefit from taking the broader context of Paul's prayer into view?

6. How many separate truths about Christ can you see and savor together in 1:15-20? Name as many of them as you can, pondering their practical application as you go. What are these realities that Paul is highlighting about Jesus, and why are they of such shattering importance?
7. Verses 21 and 22 contain some precious indicatives (what Christ has already done), while verse 23 contains a serious imperative (what we as Christians must do). What promises in verses 21-22 are especially thrilling to you? What warning in verse 23 is especially motivating to you?
8. What is Paul talking about in 1:24? It's easily one of the most befuddling verses in the New Testament, and yet we also came to a reasonable understanding of the text when we studied it together. If you're having trouble unlocking Paul's meaning, remember that Philippians 2:30 and 4:18 contain important keys to its interpretation. What is the practical application for us today?