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COLOSSIANS:

What the Preeminence of Christ Means to You, the Church

by

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Colossians 1:1-12

Opening: What kinds of things do you like to hear about when talking with friends?

Observation

1. Who is writing this letter and to whom?
2. How does the author describe the people he is writing to?
3. Why does the author give thanks for the people?
4. What has the author not ceased to do?

Interpretation

5. What do you think the author meant when he calls the people saints?
6. What evidence is there that the gospel is 'bearing fruit and increasing'?
7. What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord?
8. How has the Father qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light?

Application

9. What kinds of things do you ask God to do when praying for others?
Does it match what Paul prayed for?
10. Examine yourself in light of what others would say about your faith, love, and hope? How does it compare with the Colossians? What fruit do You want to see in the future?

Colossians 1:13-29

Opening: If you had to describe Jesus Christ in one word, what would that word be?

Observation

1. Where did God transfer the believer to and where was he before?
2. What did Christ create?
3. How did Christ make peace?
4. Under what conditions does the author write that believers will be presented to God 'holy and blameless and beyond reproach'?
5. What was Paul made?
6. What does Paul proclaim?
7. How many times does Paul use the phrase "every man" or "everyone"?

Interpretation

8. Why would Paul address Christ as creator to the Colossians?
9. What does Paul mean when describing Christ as 'first-born of all creation' in verse 15?
10. Is it possible for a believer to be 'moved away from the hope of the gospel'? How?
11. Why was Paul made a minister?

12. What is 'this mystery' that Paul writes about in verse 27?

13. Why is Paul concerned with 'every man' in verse 28?

Application

14. In what areas of your life would you like to see Christ consistently have first place in?

15. What has Christ made you to do and where does it fit in relation to His desire to present every person complete in Christ?

Colossians 2:1-23

Opening: What types of schemes of deception are happening in the current culture to persuade action?

Observation

1. For whom does Paul want to know how great a struggle he has?
2. In whom are 'hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge'?
3. Have the Colossians received Christ?
4. What warnings does Paul give the Colossians?
5. What decrees were the Colossians submitting themselves to?

Interpretation

6. Is Paul really 'with' the Colossians? How?
7. Why would Paul command the Colossians to 'walk in Him'?
8. What are the 'elementary principles of the world' that Paul is writing about?
9. How do circumcision, baptism, and forgiveness relate to each other?
10. If Christ has forgiven us all our sins, then does that include future sins?
11. What is the prize that is being defrauded in verse 18?

Application

12. In what areas of your life are you most vulnerable to being 'taken captive to the elementary principles of the world'?

13. Draw a picture of yourself being buried with Christ and then raised with Him. Label the picture with words of what happened to you and why?

Colossians 3:1-17

Opening: What things in your home would you hide or conceal in a safety box in case there was a fire? (you only get 3 things)

Observation

1. What does Paul want the Colossians to keep seeking?
2. What does Paul contrast with ‘the things above’?
3. Who is hidden
4. What should the recipients of this letter put to death?
5. What kind of heart should a believer put on?
6. What should the believer let ‘rule’ in his heart?
7. How is the believer to do with the word of Christ?

Interpretation

8. What does it mean to set your mind on the things above?
9. According to verse 5, how does one put to death immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, etc.?
10. Why should believers not lie to one another?
11. How should believers view the different races?
12. Why should believers forgive? Does it *only* happen if another confesses sin?

13. How does the believer let the 'word of Christ dwell' within him?

11. How does one do something 'in the name of Jesus'?

Application

12. What are some specific steps you can take to help set your mind on the things above?

13. As you 'put aside the old self with its evil practices, who might you need to forgive for any past hurts? Make a list and pray for a forgiving spirit?

14. What are some ways that you can admonish or teach other believers to help the growth of the body of Christ?

Colossians 3:18-4:6

Opening: Describe your family or work relationships in a few words.

Observation

1. List the commandment(s) to the following:

Wives –

Husbands –

Children –

Fathers –

Slaves –

Masters –

2. What should the Colossians devote themselves to?
3. What does Paul urge the Colossians to pray for?
4. What does Paul say about the conditions from which he is writing to the Colossians?
5. What does Paul command regarding the use of speech?

Interpretation

6. What does it mean for wives to ‘be subject to your husbands’? How does the world view this? Why?
7. What is significant or unique about Paul’s command to the husbands?
8. How can a child obey his parents if it is against what the Bible commands?
9. How might a father ‘exasperate’ his child?
10. How should an employer view his relationship with his boss or employer? How should he perform his or work?

11. What does 'devotion to prayer' look like in a believer's life?

12. Why is our speech, especially with outsiders, so important?

Application

13. How will you devote yourself to prayer? What will that look like?

14. What are some attitudes and actions you can embrace in order to live biblically with your family and work relationships?

15. What are some goals you can make so that your children will 'not lose heart'?

16. What 'door for the word' do you want God to open in your relationship with others?
How can others pray for you?

Colossians 4:7-18

Opening: What would you like epitaph on your grave to read?

Observation

1. How does the writer describe Tychicus and for what purpose was he sent?
2. Who is described to the Colossians as ‘one of your number’ (you)?
3. What does Aristarchus have in common with Paul?
4. Who is ‘the beloved physician’?
5. What command(s) does the writer give?

Interpretation

6. Why does Paul mention people in his letter?
7. What should the church today do with Paul’s letters according this particular passage?
8. Why might the Colossians need to hear this part of the letter?

Application

9. Who are some significant Christians in your life and what ways would you describe them to others?
10. Paul writes, “Remember my imprisonment” (chains). What should others know about you when they pray?

