



BETHEL
GOSPEL
TABERNACLE

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C.A.R.E. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

C.A.R.E. Study Material

Book of Colossians

*And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*

(Acts 5:42 (KJV))



For more information on the C.A.R.E. Ministry
Please email CARE@bgtintl.com or call the Church office
Christ-Like Approach in Reaching Everyone

Copies of this Study Material can be found
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Table of Contents

Date to Cover

- 1. Colossians 1:1 - 2:5 _____
- 2. Colossians 2:6-23 _____
- 3. Colossians 3:1-17 _____
- 4. Colossians 3:18 – 4:18 _____

Notes

1. Colossians 1:1 - 2:5

In order to encourage the Colossians, Paul instructed the believers in Colossae in the role Christ plays as the center and head of everything in heaven and on earth. Christ is, in fact, the exact representation of God himself. This passage is a refreshing reminder of the unique power and position Christ possesses as the Ruler over all.

OPEN

1. Who would you say is the most powerful person in the modern world? Why?

EXPLORE

2. Whom does this passage say Jesus represents? (1:15)
3. What was Christ's role in creation, according to this passage? (1:16)
4. Which came first Christ or creation? (1:17)
5. How does this passage describe the preeminence of Jesus? (1:18)

GET IT

6. If Christ is exactly like God, how would you describe God to a nonbeliever?
7. What is significant to you concerning Christ's role in creation?
8. How would you summarize the extent of Christ's power?
9. What effect does a fresh realization of Christ's power and position have on any problems you may be currently facing?

APPLY

10. How will you draw on the authority of Christ to help you this week in your time of need?

2. Colossians 2:6-23

Paul warns about the powerlessness of human effort. He describes man-made religious rules as “empty teaching.” It is empty because only Christ’s finished work on the cross contains the power to break sin’s hold on our lives. Human effort is no match for the powerful work of Christ. Only God can free people from sin’s grip.

OPEN

1. When was a time when you tried to succeed in a sport, new venture, or business opportunity but ultimately failed?

EXPLORE

2. What did Paul originally teach the Colossians? (2:7)
3. What does Paul say is the origin of empty, human teaching? (2:8)
4. What rules were the believers in Colossae tempted to follow? (2:16)
5. How does Paul describe the rules the Colossians were tempted to follow? (2:22-23)

GET IT

6. How would you contrast the religious traditions concocted by human beings versus a relationship with Christ?
7. In what ways are people fooled into following man-made religion? Why?
8. In what ways do you lean on human effort rather than God’s grace to make it through the day?
9. Why is it not possible for people to break the power of sin on their own by simply trying harder?

APPLY

10. When can you ask God to help you receive his grace and power for Christian living instead of relying on your own strength?

3. Colossians 3:1-17

Have you ever wanted to start all over again? In this passage, Paul speaks of how all believers have a new place to start—a new life in Christ. He challenges believers to “clean house,” to get rid of all the former attitudes and actions that were part of their old life of sin. Right living and thinking is a natural overflow of the new life we have been given in Christ.

OPEN

1. If you could start your adult life over again, what changes would you like to make?

EXPLORE

2. What does Paul say happens to the believers’ old, sinful self? (3:3)
3. What sins does Paul challenge believers to discard? (3:5, 8-9)
4. What are the benefits Paul lists of living the new life? (3:10)
5. What are the characteristics of the new life? (3:12-17)

GET IT

6. How does a person’s thought life impede or improve their behavior?
7. Why do you think Paul says letting evil control you is like “serving a false god”?
8. How does a person “put evil out” of their lives?
9. What inspires you about your opportunity to live a new life in Christ?

APPLY

10. What characteristic of the new life in Christ will you put into practice this week?

4. Colossians 3:18 – 4:18

Paul concluded his letter to the Colossians with the challenge to make the most of every opportunity. His own life was a model of such a philosophy put into action. Even in prison, Paul was making the most of the situation for the sake of Christ. He wrote letters filled with encouragement and instruction to new believers all over the Mediterranean world. He preached to the people that gathered at his house. He even told the soldiers guarding him about Jesus. Paul was a man who saw opportunities everywhere he looked.

OPEN

1. What one missed opportunity in life sticks in your mind the most?

EXPLORE

2. What is Paul's work ethic? (3:23)
3. In all endeavors, who should we consider our "boss"? (3:23-24)
4. For what specific audience does Paul say to be especially conscious of opportunities to influence? (4:5)
5. What action does Paul encourage believers to practice in order to cultivate opportunities to influence others for Christ? (4:6)

GET IT

6. How would you translate Paul's work ethic into your own specific life?
7. What would change about your attitude toward your job if you considered Christ your ultimate "boss"?
8. What do you think it means to make the most of opportunities with unbelievers?
9. Why is the way a believer talks especially important in cultivating opportunities to tell others about Jesus Christ?

APPLY

10. In what area of your life will you determine this week to apply yourself as if you were serving Christ himself?

