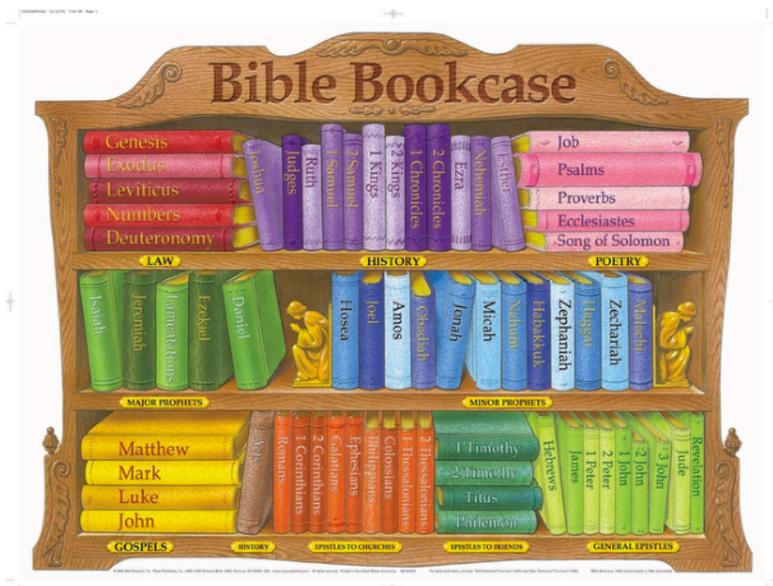


Colossians - The Purpose

March 16/17



Colossians Overview

Colossians 1:1-3 Greetings From Paul

Colossians 1:3-8 Prayer of Thanksgiving

Colossians 1:9-13 Prayer For Wisdom

Personal Application

Colossians Challenge:

- 1st Week Read the Letter to the Colossians
- Memorization: Colossians 1:15-20 (NLT)
- Resources: Bibleproject.com (watch summary of Colossians)
- Biblehub.com (Commentary)
- Biblegateway.com (Variety of Translations)

Part 1 (Large Group Discussion): Message Recap

- What stood out to you about this weekend's message, and/or what questions do you still have?
- In order to better understand and retain what we read in Scripture, we need to take a few minutes to learn the big-picture context of whatever book we are reading. After what was taught at the weekend services, can you briefly summarize why Paul felt compelled to write the letter to the Colossians that he did? (If you don't have an answer, take a few minutes to discuss and/or research more. Remember resources like Study Bibles and The Bible Project.)



Part 2 (Large Group Discussion): Digging Deeper

- Colossians 1:4-5a is one of many times when Paul talks about "faith, hope, and love." In this instance, Paul emphasizes that it is our hope that is a catalyst for our acts of faith and love. Try to honestly reflect on the motivation behind your specific decisions to trust God and love others. How often are those decisions motivated by the "hope stored up for you in heaven"? What—good or bad—are the other sources of motivation you find yourself drawing from?
- In Colossians 1:9-10, Paul says he prays that the Colossians will grow in knowledge of God's will, so that they will live in a way that pleases God and bear good fruit. In Colossians 1:11, Paul says he also prays that they will be given the strength needed to persevere. Think of believers dearest to you (family, friends, etc.). What are your most common prayers for them?
- Compare Colossians 1:12b-14 to Acts 26:17-18. Do you think of the world in as drastic of terms as Paul uses? ("kingdom of darkness/kingdom of the Son," "darkness/light," "power of Satan/power of God")

Part 3 (Small Group Discussion): Personal Application

- How do you select what you will read in Scripture each week? Do you do anything prior to jumping into a book to help you understand the context?
- If you don't have a process (in making a reading plan and/or in learning the context of the book you're reading), what can you implement going forward?