

Colossians: Week One

Have the group read **Colossians 1:1-12** prior to coming to small group. Ask them to take notes on what they see in this passage and to read it over and over again before coming.

Leaders: Here are some additional pieces of information related to the book of Colossians-

- Paul is the author of this letter.
- It was written in about 60 AD from prison in Rome.
- Paul never actually went to Colosse that we know of. This church was most likely planted by someone that Paul had led to Christ.
- Paul wrote this letter to refute some heresy that was occurring in the church at Colosse, mainly in regard to the supremacy and adequacy of Christ.

Opening

What are some character traits that you would want someone to think of when they think about you?

Discussion

What do we learn about the Colossians and their character from v. 3-5? What attributes do you see referenced by Paul?

What do we learn about the gospel from v. 6? What effect has it had on the Colossians?

What can we learn about Paul and Timothy (the authors) from this first part of chapter 1?

Read v. 9-11. What does it mean to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord?

How can we please him in all respects and bear fruit in every good work? What does this look like? How does this happen?

How can we increase in the knowledge of God?

What is one essential ingredient for all this to happen that we see evidenced by Paul and Timothy for the Colossian people?

How do you think that the Colossian people got the character traits of faith, love, and hope in v. 3-5 now that we have read 1:1-12?

Application

What are you going to do to begin walking in a manner worthy of the Lord? What are some practical steps that you can take?

How are you going to work on bearing fruit to glorify God in all that you do?

What are some tangible steps you are going to take to increase in the knowledge of God?

How can this small group help you get there?

Conclusion

The gospel fundamentally changed the lives of the Colossian people. Now being filled with the Holy Spirit, they were bearing spiritual fruit and glorifying God. They allowed God to work through them and focused on living a life that was worthy of the Lord, seeking to please the Lord in all that they do, and desiring to grow in their knowledge of the Lord. Through this they developed a visible faith, love, and hope. However, all this could not be done without prayer and obedience.

This doesn't mean that the people of Colosse were perfect people. They still struggled with understanding God and living a Christ-like life. The key is that they longed for and desired to live that kind of life as Paul encouraged and prayed for them.

Let us strive for a Christ-like life and let Paul's prayer and desire for the Colossians be seen in our lives as well.

Prayer

Ask God to help each member of the group live a life worthy of the Lord, which pleases God and bears much fruit. Pray that God would help each person to have a desire to increase in the knowledge of God and to work towards understanding God more and more.