



COLOSSIANS Course, Session Three

Text: Colossians 2

Chapter Introduction

1. What is Mirror Reading, and how can it present challenges to bible readers?

2. What is the best mix of characteristics to take with you when doing Mirror Reading?

3. Chapter 2 can be broken into three main sections: *Verses 1-5, Verses 6-15, and Verses 16-23.*

4. What's the importance of a "therefore?" It acts as a _____

Colossians 2:1-5

5. The Greek word for the "great struggle" Paul is referencing is *Agona*, where we get the word *agony*. How should we understand this word as used here? _____

6. Can you think of a "great struggle" you have undergone on behalf of someone else? Try to recall the feeling and your mindset in that situation. _____

7. Why is it critical that the Colossian Christians be "knit together?"

8. What is a better word for *mystery* that is closer to our understanding of the word?

9. What is "God's mystery" in verses 2-3, (it's a different mystery than in Chapter 1)? How does it impact the need for being knit together? _____

10. What are the Colossian Christians looking for in the wrong places? _____

11. What knowledge do we take from the culture around us and try to attach to our Christian faith? What things/people do you consider the authorities in your life, which tend to rely upon without questioning? This is not always obvious or easy. They can be so engrained in how we think that we don't realize we are buying into all the authority tells us.

Colossians 2:6-15

12. What is the simple command given in verse 6, the first actual command in this letter?

13. What is important about the tense of this verb in the command? _____
14. What are the four things Paul describes that happen when we follow the command?

15. What basic gardening/farming steps are needed when planting something so it grows deep and strong? _____
16. Next, how do these steps help in understanding how to become more fully planted in Jesus, in our Christian life? _____
17. Think or discuss just *one thing* you can do differently, or maybe just *more consistently*, in order to become more deeply rooted. _____
18. Look over verses 8-15 and explore *all the ways* Paul describes exactly what God has done in and for Christ-followers. Why do you think Paul sees fit to list all of these? Which one has special meaning for you? _____
19. Why do you think he repeats many times “in him” or “in Christ?” What is wrapped up in that little phrase? _____

Colossians 2:16-23

20. Reading through these verses, what are the things we pursue that are “False Fillings?” (False, futile or deceptive ways to be filled?) _____
21. What is wrong with them? Many of them do not seem to be necessarily bad or dangerous for believers. _____
22. Some of the things listed appear to be practices followed by people coming out of a Jewish background. Why does Paul consider these things bad or unnecessary?

23. Paul asked a key question in verse 20: “*If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the universe, why do you live as if you still belonged to the world?*” Explore what it means that we “died to the elemental spirits of the universe.” Pay attention to how he puts this, and ask how and why does this happen to the Christ follower?

24. What habits and thoughts and values of yours might just need a funeral?
