



Text: Colossians 1

Introduction and Review

1. How is the Letter to the Colossians a good “desert island” book?
 2. The letter contains passages that utilize what three characteristics?
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
 3. How is your church like the church of Colossae? How is it different?
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Colossians 1:1-8

4. What does Paul praise the Colossians for? _____
 5. Could the same words be said for us at Hope Church? For the small group you attend? For you and/or your family? _____
 6. If Paul had been writing to us, what might Paul’s words be?
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Colossians 1:9-12

7. Read this passage out loud to yourself or to your group.
 8. What are the five “so that” results that he prays will come to them as of a result of “being filled with the knowledge of his will?” [HINT: look for the “ing” words!]
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9. Paul uses the word *Fill*, in various forms quite a lot in Colossians! Ask this question, whenever you notice the “filling” idea, WHO is doing the filling? WHO is being filled? Keep track of who does what, God or Jesus or us. What might that tell us?
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Colossians 1:13-23

10. Much of the description in this section focuses on Being, not Doing.
11. Verses 13 and 14 are about who we are as believers, and then 21 through 23 do the same. Verses 15-20 describe Jesus the Messiah in astounding ways. Take a piece of paper and draw a long line down the middle so you have two columns. On the Left side, summarize each declaration that starts with “He is” from verses 15 through 20. On the Right side, summarize each declaration from verses 13, 14 and 21 to 23 that begins with either “You are” or “You have been.”

Colossians 1:24-29

12. After Paul describes the suffering he has endured, he states that "...in my flesh, I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church." Take the phrases of his astounding statement and try to put them in your own words:
- a. "...in my flesh..." _____
 - b. "...I am *filling up* what is lacking in Christ's afflictions..." _____
 - c. "for the sake of his body, that is, the church..." _____
 - d. What is Paul saying about how his suffering relates to Jesus' own suffering and death? _____
 - e. What does this mean for us who are Christ-followers in the 21st century? Does this still apply somehow to us or was it not intended to apply to our lives?

13. How is hardship we endure for following God, more understandable, more tolerable, or even encouraging? Can I see my suffering as an extension or a joining-with-Jesus in his suffering?

14. Is there someone I can encourage, whom I see suffering, while trying to obey and honor God in their life? _____
15. What is the mystery – as Paul defines that word -- that he is referring to that has been uncovered with Jesus' death and resurrection? _____
16. What does "Christ in you, the Hope of Glory" mean to Paul? What should it mean to us?

17. Why is it so important to Paul that this is now open to non-Jews?

18. What does that truth open up to me and Christians living today?

19. What do we miss if we don't recognize what all this means? _____

Enjoy your time in Colossians Chapter 1. We will see you next time!