

SERMON GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Check out your notes from this week's sermon. What stood out?
Were you challenged? Anything you found difficult or disagreed with?

DIGGING INTO THE TEXT - COLOSSIANS 1:1-2

- As we enter Colossians, it's important to recognize that Some people try to downplay Paul's words by saying, "Paul said that, not Jesus." Paul was an apostle commissioned by Christ Himself, and his office carried the authority to speak God's word to the church. If Paul insists his words are Spirit-given and not from man (1 Cor 2:13; Gal 1:11-12; 1 Thess 2:13), if Peter himself recognizes Paul's letters as Scripture (2 Pet 3:16), if we affirm that all Scripture is God-breathed (2 Tim 3:16), then on what grounds could we treat Paul's writings as anything less than fully authoritative?
- Why does Paul introduce himself as "an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God"? What does that title and calling communicate to the Colossians - and to us today?
- How should we respond to his words knowing he speaks as Christ's appointed representative?
- Fill in the blanks and discuss this summary. We must always remember that the whole Bible is Christ-centered. Brad often notes it like this:
In the Old Testament He is _____.
In the Gospels, He is _____.
In Acts, He is _____.
In the Epistles/Letters, He is _____.
In Revelation, He is _____.

TAKEAWAYS

IN THIS WORLD AND IN CHRIST

John 17:15-17

- In what ways does Hillsboro (or your own "Colossae") try to set the tone for your life?
- Jesus prayed that His people would be in the world but not of it. Where do you personally feel the pull of the world most strongly, and how does remembering you are "in Christ" help you resist it?

PROCLAIMING CHRIST, PREPARING HIS PEOPLE

Matthew 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 3:7; Colossians 1:28-29

As we finished 1 Samuel, one of the clearest lessons we saw was the danger of failing to inquire of the Lord.

Our church is renewing our commitment to Christ's Great Commission. At 8am and 8pm commit to pray for the following three things:

1. Faithfulness – that HCC will remain steadfast in carrying out God's mission.
2. Strength – that we will stand firm when opposition comes.
3. Personal Calling – how is God specifically calling you to proclaim Christ and prepare His people in your daily life.