

# Saint Paul's Baptist Church

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*Weekday Study Notes*

## WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S

Saint Paul's Baptist Church exists to empower people to grow into all that God created them to be. We do that by finding needs and meeting them, finding problems, and solving them, finding hurts and healing them.

## GET CONNECTED

God created us for community. To volunteer, participate in a small group, or would get more information about upcoming events, visit [myspbc.org](http://myspbc.org) or download our free mobile app from your favorite app store: MYPBCAPP.

## NEED PRAYER?

We are honored to pray with you or for you. Join Us during or after worship services for personal prayer by logging on to [www.myspbc.info/prayerroom](http://www.myspbc.info/prayerroom). You may also submit a prayer request at [myspbc.org/prayer](http://myspbc.org/prayer).

## JESUS IS GREATER: A STUDY IN COLOSSIANS

*Today's Lesson: The Supreme Concern*

*Colossians 2:1-5: New International Version*

2 I want you to know how hard I am contending for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. <sup>2</sup> My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, <sup>3</sup> in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. <sup>4</sup> I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. <sup>5</sup> For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

Paul is writing to a church being inundated by false doctrine, so he undertakes the task of reeducating them on the person and work of Christ. That was how he opened in chapter 1, but then in verse 24 he shifted his approach from speaking about the person of Christ to talking about his own experience as a follower of Christ.

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Colossians 1:24: *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake. He addresses an issue that appears throughout the scripture.*

1 Thessalonians 1:6: *You also became imitators of us and of the Lord having received the word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit.*

James 1:2: *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.*

Acts 5:41: *Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name.*

### The Connection Between Suffering and Joy:

1. Serves as a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Serves as a \_\_\_\_\_
3. Serves as a \_\_\_\_\_

#### a. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF PAUL'S CONCERN (v. 1)

(1 Peter 4:13-14, Acts 9:15, 2 Corinthians 1:8, 1 Thessalonians 2:9, 2 Corinthians 11:29, Colossians 4:12, Ephesians 6:18)

#### b. THE \_\_\_\_\_ OF PAUL'S CONCERN (vs. 2-3)

(John 3:16)

#### c. THE \_\_\_\_\_ BEHIND PAUL'S CONCERN (vs. 4-5)

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## Discussion Guide:

**Icebreaker:** Share: one thing people would be surprised to know about me is...

### Discussion Questions:

1. You may have heard of the Screwtape letters by C.S. Lewis. It's a fictional book of letters between two demons. One is a more senior demon, trying to teach a junior demon how to derail a person from coming to Christ, and from persevering in Christ. *If you wanted to discourage, divide, and derail Christians from trusting in Jesus, what lies would you tell them?*
2. Look at v. 1-2. *What is Paul's struggle? How does telling us about it encourage us, knit us together in love and reassure us?*
3. In Christ are "hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." *How does knowing this...*
  - a) *Shape the way we think about Christ?*
  - b) *Shape the way we think about other worldviews?*
4. Look at v.4. The danger facing the Colossians is "being deluded with plausible arguments." *The key to good lying (which I hope you won't use) is to make your lie sound true...*
  - a) *What were the "plausible arguments" threatening the Colossians? Why were they so attractive? (Hint 2:8, 2:16-23)*
  - b) *What "plausible arguments" do we face today? Why are they attractive?*
5. Read v. 5. Paul started by rejoicing in his sufferings (1:24), now he rejoices because he expects the Colossians to stand fast (2:5). *What is "good order" and*

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*“firm faith in Christ”? How can we help each other to resist plausible arguments and look to Christ for what we need?*

6. Paul deeply cared for the Colossians even though he never met them (2:1) and wasn't with them (2:5). Too often it's 'out of sight, out of mind' in our concern for others. *How can your group better love and support others that you don't know or see often?*

**CHALLENGE:** What is one “a-ha” moment you had in our group discussion today. Note it and write it down. If you applied your learning from this week's message, how would the next week be different for you?

**SERVE:** How is God calling us to live out this lesson this week? As individuals? As a group?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at [www.myspbc.org](http://www.myspbc.org). You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/myspbc](http://www.facebook.com/myspbc). Turn on your notifications.

**CELEBRATIONS:** Take this time to share praise reports (e.g., answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

**PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAYER:** Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.