

- ❖ If you haven't yet or you need another look, watch an overview and background of Colossians chapters 1-4 using the Bible Project. (9:16 minutes)

<https://youtu.be/pXTXlDxQsvc?si=S2gQlJNnIkWnd481>

- ❖ Read aloud Colossians chapter 2. You can use a Bible app such as "Bible YouVersion", or have several people read sections of chapter 2 aloud to the group.

1) Paul begins the 2nd chapter with words that indicate the kind of struggle a wrestler or runner might experience. For whom or what do you struggle in prayer - maybe even people and places you have not seen "face to face"? In what ways can we/you invest in the spiritual welfare of others? Give some practical examples that others in your group may take part in.

2) In verses 2 & 3, Paul desires bonds of Christian love and an understanding that results in knowing the "treasures of wisdom & knowledge of Christ" for the Colossians. How does personal prayer and Bible study, along with Christian fellowship and teaching, give the same results for us today? Do you need to improve or spend more time in any of these areas?

3) Continuing in verses 4-8 what "fine-sounding arguments" did the first century believers hear and what do many people hear today that keep them from Jesus Christ?

How does Paul's focus on Jesus offer a simple solution - especially to your life?

4) Paul vividly describes the core doctrines of the gospel in verses 9-15. Can you describe them in simple terms? Be brave and turn to the person sitting next to you in your group and take turns telling one another the core doctrines of the gospel.

5) As we experience worldly influences from books, media, and sometimes even well-meaning friends, what can we use as a filter to keep us "rooted & grounded" in Christ?

GO DEEPER: This week spend some time in prayer asking God to show you what in your life requires a deeper circumcision - a cutting away of a sinful nature you still struggle with. Make this a matter of continuing prayer and possibly even a time of fasting. You may even want to speak with an elder or trusted Christian friend to pray with you.