

Memory Verse: 3:2

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Why Colossians?

Colossians helps us to discover a few more things about Jesus and learn how we can honor Him.

Paul wrote this epistle while he was under house arrest in Rome. Paul wrote this epistle to the small city of Colossae located in what is now Turkey.

Why is this important? Paul was waiting on an appeal to the Roman Emperor Nero. In spite of his incarceration, he wanted to exalt the supremacy of Christ and what it means for our everyday lives. Paul is interested, even in prison, in honoring God!

How to Please God

Read Colossians 1:1-14

Paul calls for Christian to stand against public opinions or popular trends.

Discussion: What are some of the challenges we face in today's world?

- How do we remain "unstained"?
- Should we compromise for the sake of getting along?
- Should we "give in" for the sake of winning others to Christ?

Real Life Case Study

Consider Daniel in the book that bears his name. The Bible declares in Daniel 1:8 Daniel refused to eat the food from the king's table. Who wouldn't want to eat the best of the best? What gave Daniel his stick-to-it-ness? What were they offered? What did they refuse? Why?

Discussion

Object Lesson: Mouse Trap

Wonder how a mouse would respond if it knew there was a trap set for him?



Mouse trap



Man trap?

How are you responding?

Into the Word

What did Paul tell the Colossians he had been asking God to do for them?

What is spiritual wisdom and understanding?

Why do we need both?

Read verse 10.

Paul said the first step in pleasing God is to bear fruit in every good work.

We cannot bear fruit on our own. It is God's part. We are called to do "good works." Good works is our responsibility.

What kind of good works are we doing?

You might want to make it personal and ask yourself what specific good work does God want me to do?

The answer to this question is determined by your answer to three other questions:

1. What has God given you the **ability** to do?
2. What has God given you the **desire** to do?
3. What has God given you the **opportunity** to do?

What ministry is lacking because you are not doing your part?

Reread Colossians 1:10. We are instructed to grow in the knowledge of your God?

God is pleased at our efforts to get to know Him. Why do you think knowledge of God is crucial in our lives?

Discussion: What kind of things have helped you to know God?

Reread verse 10-14

Notice God places a great deal of value on endurance. It is not enough to start well: God wants us to finish well. The only way to endure is through the strength and power of the Lord. Read Colossians 1:11.

We make the mistake of trying to live our lives depending on our own strength and power.

Consider Paul's athletic metaphor in 1 Cor 9: 24-27. What do you think Paul means by verse 27?

We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to strengthen us, being honest with God and admitting we are losing perspective...