

Colossians

Big Idea

“The book of Colossians is about trusting in the right things. Or to be more exact, about trusting in the right person, Jesus Christ... The Colossians were trusting in the wrong things and the way to be Christian was to trust in Jesus” – Terry Muck (in *Colossians*, NIVAC).

Where is Colossae?



Questions

1. Look at Colossians 1:3-6. How are faith, hope and love connected? What does the Gospel produce in believers?
2. Follow the thread through Paul's prayer discussion in 1:9-14. What does he pray on their behalf? Why does he pray it? What does that look like? What does that produce? What do we have to be thankful for? ** How can we apply these insights as we pray for others?
3. Look at Paul's description of Jesus in 1:15-20. What does this teach us about Jesus and the world?

4. How does Paul describe the Gospel in 1:21-23?
What's the relationship between God's action and our response?

5. The hope of glory is Christ in you (v. 27). What does that mean for how we live?

"The word prōtotokos ("firstborn"), while often used in the literal sense of the first to come from the womb, takes on a metaphorical significance based on the ancient attribution of pre-eminence to the first to be born"
– Douglas Moo

6. Read 1:28-29. You can pray for me by praying for God's help as I focus on those things.

7. Look at 2:1-5. What are the purposes of ministry?

8. "Continue to live in Christ, rooted and strengthened Him, rather than being taken captive by the 'wisdom of the world' because Christ as God is sovereign over all" (2:6-10). Why is that counsel important in this day and age? What are some of the 'hollow philosophies' and 'human traditions' that we face?

9. How is circumcision a helpful metaphor when thinking about salvation? Why is baptism a helpful metaphor? (2:11-12).

10. Consider 2:13-15. How does Paul describe the Gospel here? What did God do? What did we do?

11. Colossians 2:16-23 again warns against empty philosophy/man-made religion/humanism. Where do you see these expressed in our culture?