

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Keep Jesus Christ Dead-Center

Colossians is a message greatly needed--warning the saints from getting off course. It's always a danger for God's people to get sidetracked with less important things. Colosse was a meeting place of East and West trade routes. Consequently they had a mixed bag of ideologies; little bits and pieces from Jewish legalism and Gnostic mysticism. Some were seeking a "new" experience. Paul provides the point that they and we should keep Jesus Christ as the center of our life so we won't swerve off course.

Personal (Col 1:1-14)

Paul addresses the mixed up belief system that is happening in Colosse. He reminds them to hang onto the hope and truth of the gospel and to bring forth fruit.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What is the inevitable result of preaching the gospel?
- b. What are some of the tactics that Satan uses to hijack the gospel?
- c. How can you personally be prepared for these tactics?

Doctrinal (Col 1:15-2:23)

Jesus Christ came so that people would know what God is like. He is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation, He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What is meant by "image of the invisible God?"
- b. What does the term "first born over all creation" mean?
- c. Who was the easiest prey for the false teachers?
- d. How is every ceremony completed, every requirement depleted and every enemy defeated in Christ?
- e. Examine your heart: If Jesus Christ is truly all you need, then why would you settle for less or look for more? Are you doing this?

Practical (Col 3:1-4:6)

Paul encourages them to apply their knowledge to their life. Put off the old man, put on the new man. Not because they should work for their salvation, but because of grace.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Examine your heart: Is Christ first place in your life? Are you living your life looking at Christ?

Relational (Col 4:7-18)

We find a list of 11 names, Paul's associates in the ministry. These are hidden saints, behind the scenes doing the work of the ministry.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Who are the hidden saints in your life?
- b. Are you a hidden saint in someone else's life?