

# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 1

### Philippians 1

1. The book of Philippians has been a source of comfort to untold numbers of believers down through the centuries. This book is filled with great and precious promises to assist you as you walk through the difficulties of life. Take a moment to look up the following promises from the book and share your thoughts.

- Phil 1:6
- Phil 1:21
- Phil 2:9-11
- Phil 3:8
- Phil 3:13-14
- Phil 3:20-21
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:6-7
- Phil 4:13

It may be helpful to keep in mind that this letter, along with Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and 2 Timothy were all written from a prison cell. In other words all the comfort, strength and encouragement we receive from this letter came at great personal cost to Paul.

2. How does knowing that God used Paul in such a powerful way help you to rethink the current trials you are facing?

## Read Philippians 1:1-2

1. Paul wrote this letter with the assistance of Timothy. Read the following verses and share what you learn about Timothy.
  - Acts 16:1-2
  - 1 Corinthians 4:17
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:2
2. Define the following terms from Phil 1:1.
  - Bondservant
  - Saints
  - Bishops
  - Deacons

**For Discussion**

- A. Grace and peace have been called the Siamese Twins of the New Testament because they are often found together and always in that order. Define the terms grace and peace and share why you think grace is always listed before peace.

**Read Philippians 1:3-11**

1. In verse 3 Paul declares that he is thankful for the Philippians every time he thinks of them. How can that attitude help you get along better with others?
2. In verse 4 Paul shares that he prays for the church regularly. How can you apply his to your life?
3. In your own words define the phrase "fellowship in the Gospel."

**For Discussion**

- B. Phil 1:6 records one of the greatest promises in the New Testament. In your own words share what the promise is, then share how this promise is a source of comfort for you.
4. Take a more careful look at Phil 1:6, what is "the day of Jesus Christ"?
  5. In verse 7 Paul refers to his chains. What does that say regarding his physical condition while writing this letter?

**For Discussion**

C. What do you think Paul means by the phrase "the defense and confirmation of the gospel"?

How can you be a part of...

- The defense of the gospel?
  
- The confirmation of the gospel?

D. Why would Paul need an extra measure of grace while defending and confirming the gospel?

- In what areas of your life do you feel like you are in need of a greater measure of the grace of God?
6. In verse 8 Paul declares that he greatly longs for the Philippians. What do you think the phrase "with the affection of Christ" means?
  7. Philippians 1:9-11 records an actual prayer of Paul for the church. Read through this prayer and spend a few minutes praying for your church.
  8. Paul's prayer can be divided into 4 parts. Read each phrase and share what you think Paul is praying for.
    - "That your love may abound"
  
    - "That you may approve the things that are excellent"

- "That you may be sincere and without offense"
- "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness"

9. Let's do a little more digging into this prayer by defining the following terms.

- Abound
- What does it mean for love to abound?
- Approve
- How can we approve what is excellent?
- Sincere
- Fruits of righteousness

10. According to verse 11, where do the fruits of righteousness come from?

## Read Philippians 1:12-18

1. In verse 12 Paul speaks of the things that happened to him. Those things form the closing chapters of the book of Acts. Read Acts 28:16 and share what you learn.
2. Paul writes that his circumstances have resulted in the Gospel being furthered. According to verse 13-14 how was this accomplished?

3. In what way did Paul's imprisonment allow the Gospel to be furthered?

**For Discussion**

E. How are you allowing your current circumstances to result in the furtherance of the gospel?

- How have you allowed your circumstances to keep you from furthering the gospel?

F. According to verse 14 others were emboldened by the trials Paul endured. How does the fearless service of others encourage you to be more faithful in serving Jesus?

4. Paul presents a very interesting concept in verses 15-17. He states that there are people who preach Christ for selfish ambition. Give an example of a person that may have self as the driving force behind serving the Lord.

5. How could others preaching Christ add affliction to Paul's chains?

6. According to verse 18 how did Paul react to the news that Christ is being preached?

7. Why should we celebrate when the gospel is being declared?

8. Give a recent example of you sharing Christ with others.

## Read Philippians 1:19-26

1. What confidence does Paul express in verse 19?
2. What two forces does he attribute to his future deliverance from prison?

### **For Discussion**

- G. Take a moment to describe the power of the Spirit of God. What is He able to accomplish? Give at least 2 examples
- H. Take a moment to describe the power of prayer. What is it able to accomplish? Give at least 2 examples.
3. According to verse 20 what did Paul desire to do with his body?
4. How can you magnify God with your life?

### **For Discussion**

- I. Verse 21 is one of the most powerful statements in the New Testament. Share your thought on the connection between living for Christ and gaining in death.
5. If we replace Christ with anything else the end of verse 21 no longer holds true. Write 3 examples of replacing the word Christ with something else and finish the verse accordingly. For example, "for me to live is pleasure and to die is my biggest fear."

6. Paul was facing a real threat of death. At any moment he could have been executed or released. According to verse 22, what did he determine to do with the time he had remaining?
  
7. According to verse 23 how did Paul view death?

**For Discussion**

J. According to verses 24-25 Paul saw his life as one that was to be spent helping others to grow in Christ. List 4 ways that Paul sought to help others grow in Christ.

- List 4 ways that you are helping others grow in Christ.

8. In verse 26 what did Paul hope for in the future?

**Read Philippians 1:27-30**

1. Define the following words as they are used in Phil 1:27.
  - Conduct
  
  - Worthy
  
  - Gospel
  
  - Affairs

- Stand fast
- Striving

**For Discussion**

K. Verse 28 encouraged us not to be terrified of the adversaries of our faith. What part does fear play in keeping you from more effectively serving Christ?

- How can the truth found in 2Timothy 1:7 help you overcome fear?
2. According to verse 29 what has been granted to us as believers?
  3. Based upon what you know about suffering why would God desire it to be a part of the life of every believer?
  4. Trials are a general term used in scripture to speak of the difficulties we face in life. Look up the following verses and share what they teach us about the importance of trials in our lives.
    - James 1:2-3
    - James 1:12 (Temptation is the same Greek word sometimes translated trials)
    - 1Peter 1:6-7
    - Romans 5:3-4
    - 2Corinthians 4:17-18



# What Happened To Me?

## *Philippians 1:12-14*

***“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”***

As Paul is writing this letter to the church in Philippi, he is chained to a soldier and sitting in a Roman prison. He was incarcerated, not for making foolish decisions, choosing the wrong path, or getting in with the wrong crowd. His imprisonment was due to a rising hostility in the Roman world towards the message of the cross. We might say, Paul was facing difficulties outside of his control. Life is like that. Even when we decide to live pleasing to the Lord, we still face hardship, difficulty and opposition. It interests me what Paul has to say about the results of his hardship.

***“The things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel...”***

In the midst of the storm he was facing, Paul realized that while it was creating hardship for him, it was also creating opportunity for others to come to Christ, or grow in Christ. He wrote of how the palace guard had come to know that his chains were in Christ. Rather than whining in prison about how unfair life was, Paul used his circumstances as a chance to tell others about the forgiveness of sins found in Jesus. While it is always easier to speak of Jesus when we are experiencing the blessings of life, the message has an added impact when it is shared through the backdrop of suffering. What a thrilling experience it must have been for those guards, to meet a man who was in prison and was actually innocent. Instead of hearing him complain, and play the blame game, they listened intently as he shared about the love of Christ, and the way of salvation. In Chapter 4, he mentions that the gospel message even reached into Caesar’s household, and many were won to Christ.

***“. . .most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”***

In addition to the spreading of the Gospel, Paul’s attitude during difficulty also had a great effect on believers. Those who were once timid and reserved, regarding their faith, found a new sense of boldness to share. A revival broke out in Philippi as one man mustered the courage to share with another about the unsearchable riches of Christ. The most effective evangelism is not through giant rallies, but through one person sharing the love of Christ with another. Evangelism has its greatest rewards when you and I will speak the Word, without fear, to our neighbors, friends, family and co-workers. As we muster the courage to invite them to church, or strike up a conversation with them about the Cross, we demonstrate our genuine interest in them.

Paul saw his circumstances as a backdrop, in which the message of the Cross would have an even greater impact upon those around him. How about you? What is your attitude in the midst of the things you are currently facing? Do you see them as the chains of Christ and use them as an opportunity to share the Gospel with others? There is a world in need of hearing the message of Christ, and we are His mouthpiece. Pray that Jesus would open new doors for you to share His love with others. Who knows what kind of revival might break out, as other believers are stirred to boldness, as a result of your step of faith.

Pastor Jim



# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 2

### Philippians 2

Read Philippians 2:1-4

1. Define the following terms from the passage.

- Consolation
  
- Comfort
  
- Fellowship
  
- Affection
  
- Mercy
  
- Like-minded
  
- One accord
  
- Selfish ambition
  
- Conceit
  
- Lowliness of mind
  
- Esteem
  
- Own interests

2. The Greek word translated "if" could also be translated since. Paul is not questioning whether there is consolation in Christ but is stating a fact about what is true in Christ. Share the consolation you have found in following Jesus.
  
3. How has the love of Christ been a source of comfort to you?
  
4. The word fellowship means to share together. What kinds of things do we share in as a result of the work of the Spirit in our lives?
  
5. Paul desires the church to be like-minded. The word mind is a key term throughout the book of Philippians. Look carefully at the passage and describe what kind of a mind we are supposed to have?
  
6. How have you been demonstrating this mind in your relationships with others?

**For Discussion**

- A. Paul writes in verse 3 that we should esteem others better than ourselves. Look carefully at verse 4, what practical way does Paul say we should do this?
  - Take some time to think about the interests of others and write a practical way you can observe this verse today. Share how you put this into practice this week.

## Read Philippians 2:5-11

This is one of the most amazing passages in the New Testament as Paul describes Christ becoming a man, accomplishing His purposes and being exalted in glory.

### **For Discussion**

- B. Verse 5 begins with an exhortation for us to have the mind of Christ. In your own words describe what that mind looks like.
- C. Paul writes in verse 6-7 that although Jesus was in the form of God He made Himself of no reputation and took on the form of a man. How should the actions of Jesus affect the way we view ourselves and others?
1. The word “form” is used in verse 6 to speak of Jesus being equal with God the Father, and in verse 7 of Jesus being a bondservant. This is an illustration of the humility found in Jesus. In what ways can you show this same kind of humility in your life?
  2. Jesus did not stop at becoming a man or even becoming a servant. What do we learn about the humility of Jesus from verse 8?
  3. According to verse 9 what was the result of Jesus lowering Himself?
  4. Remember this passage is used as an illustration to teach us the need for humility and to treat others better than ourselves. What can we learn from verse 9 about the result of taking the low place and exalting others above ourselves?
  5. What do verses 10-11 teach us about the position Jesus currently holds?

**For Discussion**

- D. Paul explains that a day is coming when every knee will bow to Christ and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. What are the benefits of bowing before Him now? What will be the consequences for those who refuse to bow to Christ?
- E. The final phrase of verse 11 reads "to the glory of God the Father." Everything Jesus did was to bring glory to His Father. How can you apply this as an example in your life?

**Read Philippians 2:12-17**

1. Therefore is a word that brings a thought toward a conclusion. How does Paul's description of Christ in verse 9-11 motivate you to keep the charge given in verse 12?
  
2. Define the following terms from verse 12.
  - Beloved
  
  - Obeyed
  
  - Salvation
  
  - Work
  
  - Fear
  
3. What do you think it means to work out your salvation with fear?
  
4. In verse 13, what does Paul promise that God is doing for the believer?

5. What command are we given in verse 14?

6. Define the word "All".

**For Discussion**

F. Why do you think God is so opposed to complaining?

- How does doing things without complaining help us shine the light of Christ in the world?
- Besides putting complaining on hold, what other ways can we live blameless and without fault in the world?
- How does living like this work to draw others to Christ?

7. In verse 16, what does Paul say we should hold fast to?

- What are some ways to hold fast to the word?

8. What do you think vain labor is?

- How can a believer be sure to arrive at the day of Christ and NOT to have labored in vain?

**For Discussion**

- G. According to the ATS Bible Dictionary a drink offering was "A small quantity of wine, part of which was to be poured on the sacrifice or meat offering, and the residue given to the priests." When Paul refers to himself as a drink offering he is stating that his life served to enhance the offering of others. How can you act as a drink offering to help others more effectively serve Jesus?
- H. Notice Paul associates joy with serving Christ and others. How have you found joy in serving Jesus?

**Read Philippians 2:19-24**

1. According to verse 19, whom was Paul sending to Philippi?
  - Why did he send him?
  - Why was Timothy chosen above others? (Phil 2:20)
2. Paul refers to Timothy as being like a son to him. What does that say about their relationship?
  - How can you be like Paul was to Timothy to someone else?
  - How can you be like a Timothy to someone else?
3. According to verse 22, what was the focus of their service together?

4. How do you think Timothy proved his character to Paul?
5. According to verse 24, what confidence did Paul have?

### Read Philippians 2:25-30

1. Write down everything you learn about Epaphroditus from the passage.
2. Why was Epaphroditus distressed?
3. What does that say to you about his character?

### For Discussion

#### I. How can you be a...

- Fellow worker
- Fellow soldier
- Messenger of the gospel

#### 4. Why should men like Epaphroditus be held in high esteem?

- What are the proper ways to show esteem to such men?
- Why is it wrong for a person to pursue being esteemed by others?

**For Discussion**

- J. Look at the phrase, "not regarding his life to supply what is lacking in your service." What does that say to you about how we should serve Jesus?

# Others

*Philippians 2:17-18*

***“Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.”***

Prior to the death and resurrection of Christ, the prescribed manner of worship of God included an elaborate system of sacrifices. Every morning, every evening, and on prescribed dates throughout the year, animals were offered as burnt offerings to provide atonement for the sins of the people. Each of the sacrifices pointed in one way or another to Christ. As the Son of God, His death provided more than all the offerings could ever do. Peter wrote,

***“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, . . .” 1 Peter 3:18***

It is not difficult to see a portrait of Christ in the Passover lamb, the scapegoat, or the sin offerings, but what of this drink offering? Did you notice Paul does not refer to Christ, but to himself as this offering? The drink offering, described in Numbers 15, was designed to accompany the various offerings. If a person brought a free will offering to the Lord, to express thanks to God for who He is, and all He has done, they were to include a jug of wine as a drink offering. This offering did not provide atonement, but accompanied the offering, making the aroma that much sweeter, as it was laid upon the altar. Paul saw his role in the life of others like that. He realized, each individual must present themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to the Lord, but he would spend his life helping to make the sacrifice of others sweeter.

As we follow his story throughout the New Testament, we see he exemplifies what it means to love your neighbor as yourself. His whole life was about living for Christ, as an example to others. He spent his time, effort, and energies ensuring the Gospel was declared, and the Christian was well equipped to live for Christ. He risked his comforts and even his life, to bring the message of salvation to those who had never heard.

How do you suppose our impact upon the world would change if we saw ourselves as a drink offering, being poured out on the sacrifice of others? What kind of influence could we have for the kingdom of God, if we looked at ourselves as being in the lives of others, to help them come to Christ, and grow in Him? Writing to the Corinthians, Paul said, *“I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls.” 2 Corinthians 12:15*

Let’s determine to live like that, impacting all around us for heaven’s sake.

Pastor Jim



# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 3

### Philippians 3

#### Read Philippians 3:1-11

1. What exhortation are we given in verse 1?
2. Understanding that Paul was facing very difficult circumstances, what do we learn about rejoicing from the phrase "rejoice in the Lord"?
3. What does the word tedious mean?
4. Why did Paul see it necessary to write the same things to the Philippians more than once?
5. Who are we were to beware of in verse 2?
6. What do you think the terms dogs, evil workers and the mutilation refer to?
7. How does Paul describe the believer in verse 3?

#### **For Discussion**

- A. Describe what it means to worship God in the Spirit. You may want to refer to Jesus' conversation with the woman at the well recorded in John 4.

B. What does it mean to put confidence in the flesh?

- What are some common ways believers put confidence in the flesh?
8. Starting with verse 4 Paul begins to explain how he used to identify himself before coming to Christ. List all the things Paul says about himself.
9. All this changed when Paul met Christ. He learned that salvation could never be attained by heritage or adherence to religious regulations. What are some of the things you trusted in before you put your faith in Jesus?

10. Rewrite verse 7 in your own words.

- What things that once meant a lot to you have you set aside to follow Christ?
- Are there things that you are having trouble counting as loss? If so what are they?

11. According to verse 8, what did Paul exchange the things of his past for?

12. How are you pursuing "the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord"?

13. According to verse 9 where does true righteousness come from?

**For Discussion**

C. In verse 10 Paul declares that his desire is to know God in two ways. What are they?

D. Write down everything you know about the power of the resurrection.

- The Bible teaches that the power of the resurrection is available to assist the believer in walking with Christ. In what ways does God provide His strength to help us follow and serve Him?

E. What does the phrase the fellowship of His suffering mean to you?

- How does Jesus fellowship with us when we are suffering?

14. Define the word conformed as it is used in verse 10

- What do think it means to be conformed to His death?

**Read Philippians 3:12-16**

1. What does the word attain mean?

2. What does the word perfected mean?

3. What does the phrase press on mean?
  - What does Paul say he presses on toward?
4. In verse 13, what term does Paul use to describe the Philippians?
5. When Paul says, "I do not count myself to have apprehended" what do you think he means?

**For Discussion**

F. In verse 13 Paul writes that he does one thing and then lists two things. What are the two things he does?

- What kind of things do we need to forget or put behind us if we are going to succeed in following Jesus?
  - What things do we need to reach toward?
  - How are you reaching toward Jesus?
6. Look carefully at verse 14, what was Paul's goal in life?
  7. Paul explained that his ultimate desire was to know Jesus better. How is having that same desire an evidence of spiritual maturity?

8. Verses 15 and 16 use the word "mind." List the things Paul has taught us so far about the mind of Christ.

### Read Philippians 3:17-21

1. Define the following terms as they are used in Phil 3:17.
  - Brethren
  
  - Join
  
  - Following
  
  - Example
  
  - Walk
  
  - Pattern

### **For Discussion**

G. What does it mean to follow an example or a pattern?

- It what way is Paul's life an example to you?
  
- In what ways is your life an example for others?
  
- Imagine if the church were filled with Christians just like you. What would be the strengths of the church? What would be its weaknesses?

2. Paul explained in 2Corinthians that in our weakness God is made strong because His grace is sufficient for us. Take some time to pray that God would provide His grace on your areas of weakness.
  
3. Carefully reread verse 18. Why is it so important to be a godly example for others?
  
4. In verse 19 Paul further describes these false believers. What do the following phrases mean to you?
  - "Whose end is destruction" –
  
  - "Whose god is their belly" –
  
  - "Whose glory is their shame" –
  
5. In contrast to this, what does Paul say about a true believer in verse 20?

**For Discussion**

H. What are the benefits of your earthly citizenship?

- What does that tell you about the benefits of a heavenly citizenship?
  
- Because our citizenship is in heaven, what should we be eagerly waiting for?
  
- Describe what it looks like to eagerly wait for that.

6. What does Paul promise Jesus will do with our lowly bodies?
  - How does that encourage you?
  
  - How does that propel you to serve Jesus more diligently?
  
7. Paul ends the chapter declaring that Jesus will "subdue all things to Himself." What does the word subdue mean? What are some things that have not yet been subdued in your life? Ask Jesus to reign over those things today.

# Beware of Dogs

## *Philippians 3:2*

***“Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!”***

Warning signs are all around us, cautioning us to beware of potential hazards. These signs warn the floor is slippery, the curve is sharp, the beam is low or the dog is mean. As I sit here writing, my teacup reads, “Careful, the beverage you are about to enjoy is extremely hot.” Which seems obvious to me, since I did not order an iced drink. On the beaches in our community, there are signs warning of what to do in case of a tsunami; although we have never been hit by a tsunami, and experts tell us that the likelihood of such an event happening is almost zero. Because these warnings are so commonplace, we can become desensitized to them, and miss the ones that really matter.

Paul’s warnings are not to be taken lightly, as he tells us to be on guard against dogs, evil workers and the mutilation. He is using a common writing technique, where repetition is used for emphasis. He is not saying there are dogs, evil people, and mutilators to be aware of, but describing a certain group of people, using all three terms. He warned the Philippians to beware of those who would cause them to take their attention off of Jesus, and focus on works, as the measurement of their relationship with Jesus. Writing to the Corinthians, he put it like this,

## *2 Corinthians 11:3*

***“But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.”***

When you came to Christ, you began a relationship with Him based upon His infinite love for you. You responded to that love by crying out to Him as Savior and Lord, and you began to follow Him. By reading your Bible, you learned of Him and were blessed by Him. You loved to be around others who loved Him like you did. Worship was amazing, as you expressed, in song, your gratitude and praise. People asked, “What happened to you? Why you were so different? Why you were not doing the things you used to do? Why you seemed so happy, even though circumstances might be quite difficult?” You were in love with Jesus, and enjoying the simplicity of Christ. But then, ever so subtly, you began to be lured away from the joy of salvation and simplicity of following Christ. Your relationship with Him began to be treated like a series of responsibilities; devotions, church attendance, service. Even sharing your faith began to be treated like duty, rather than an expression of relationship.

If that has happened to you, allow me to use the words of Christ to the church in Ephesus, as a means of encouragement,

## *Revelation 2:5*

***“Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works”***

It is time to go back to those first works; that time when you simply loved Jesus and wanted to please Him. When you read the Bible, not to check off the reading card, but because you wanted to hear Him speak to your heart, and guide your life. When you told others about Jesus, and

bragged about how He spoke to you every time you attend church. How He wants to do in others, what He is doing in you.

Be careful not to be drawn away from simply being in love with Jesus, and enjoying the relationship you have because of the Cross.

Pastor Jim



# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 4

### Philippians 4

#### Read Philippians 4:1

1. In verse 1, what terms does Paul use to describe the Philippian believers?
  
2. Why do you think Paul longed for these believers?
  
3. The word crown is used to speak of a reward given on the Day of Judgment. Paul is stating that his reward will be these men and women standing together in glory. The word crown is used to illustrate other rewards that will be given out to faithful followers of Jesus. Look up the following verses and describe the rewards promised and how they are earned.
  - 1Thessalonians 2:19
  
  - 2Timothy 4:8
  
  - James 1:12
  
  - 1Peter 5:2-4
  
  - Revelation 2:10

#### **For Discussion**

- A. After careful study of the crowns, which ones do you think you will receive and why?

- What is keeping you from pursuing the others?
4. What does the phrase "stand fast mean"?
- What are some areas in life where a person must stand fast?
  - What makes it difficult to stand fast in the Lord?
  - According to Hebrews 6:19, what do we have available to us to keep us standing fast?

### Read Philippians 4:2-7

1. Euodia and Syntyche were two women who attended the church in Philippi.
  - According to verse 1, what issue were they having?
  - How are they described in verse 2?
2. Euodia is a name derived from a word used for a fragrance or an aroma. What does Paul say about the aroma that should be coming out of the life of the believer? See 2Corinthians 2:15-16
  - How were the actions of Euodia and Syntyche hindering people from smelling the fragrance of Christ?
  - What does Paul tell them to do to fix the problem?

**For Discussion**

B. When we have conflicts with others it is because we don't have the same mind. We think one way and they think another and arguments arise. Paul is not telling Euodia to think like Syntyche or vice versa; instead he is exhorting them to have the mind of Christ. Look back at Philippians 2:5-9, what is the mind of Christ like? How will thinking like that resolve conflicts?

C. Define the phrase "fellow laborers"

- In what ways are you laboring for the gospel?
3. Philippians 4:4 is one of the most amazing verses if we understand what is being stated and who said it. Examine the verse carefully and share exactly what Paul is telling us to do.
  4. Look again at verse 4 and share everything you know about where Paul was when he wrote this.

**For Discussion**

D. Why should we rejoice when things are going well?

- Why should we rejoice when things are difficult?
- How can you obey verse 4 in your current circumstances?

5. Define the word gentleness.
  
6. What does the phrase "at hand" mean as it is used in verse 5?
  - Why should we be gentle in light of the Lord being at hand?
  
7. Philippians 4:6-7 is the Biblical antidote for worry, fear and anxiety. Paul is writing a prescription that he knows will work because he has applied it to his own life on several occasions. Look carefully at the verse and answer the following questions.
  - What are we told to stop doing?
  
  - What are we told to do?
  
  - How often?
  
  - Why is thanksgiving an important part of the antidote for anxiety?
  
  - What does Paul promise that God will do if we obey verse 6?
  
  - What is the purpose of a guard?
  
  - How does peace serve as a guard for our heart and mind?
  
  - What will you choose to focus on today; your worries or the love and care of Jesus?
  
  - Take some time to apply verse 6.

## Read Philippians 4:8-9

The modern word meditate means to empty your mind, the word used in this verse means the exact opposite. An expanded translation of the word might read to think, dwell or muse upon.

1. Make a list of each of the things we are supposed to meditate upon.
  
2. Define each of these terms as they are used in verse 8
  - True
  - Noble
  - Just
  - Pure
  - Lovely
  - Good report
  - Virtue
  - Praiseworthy

### **For Discussion**

E. Answer the following questions from verse 8.

- What will be the benefit of meditating upon truth?
- What will be the benefit of meditating upon justice?
- What will be the benefit of meditating upon purity?

- What will be the benefit of meditating upon love?
  - What will be the benefit of meditating upon virtue?
  - How could verse 8 be used as a filter to guard the eye gate?
3. What things are we exhorted to do in verse 9?
  4. Look carefully at verse 9, how did Paul teach the Philippians?
  5. How is God described in verse 9?

**For Discussion**

- F. What comfort do you find in knowing the God wants to be with you?

**Read Philippians 4:10-20**

1. It seems that the Philippian church was involved in some way of supporting the ministry of the Apostle. According to verse 10, what brought Paul such great joy?
2. According to verse 11, what lesson had Paul learned over all his years of following Jesus?
3. Define the following terms?
  - Content

- Abased
- Abound

**For Discussion**

G. Why is contentment such an important trait to have in following Jesus?

- What are some things that cause us to be discontent?
  - It is clear that circumstances did not create Paul's contentment. Where do you think he found it?
4. Verse 13 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible. What is some common context that you hear this verse quoted in?
- Look carefully at the context in which it was written. What is Paul actually saying he can do through the strength he finds in Christ?
5. Verse 14 refers to the Philippians sharing in Paul's distress.
- Define the word distress.
  - How can you share in the distress of other believers?
  - How would you like someone to share in your distress?

6. According to verses 15-16 how did the Philippian church share with Paul in the work of the gospel?
  - What does that say to you about being involved in the spread of the gospel?

### **For Discussion**

- H. How are you currently involved in helping to spread the message of Christ beyond your immediate sphere of influence?
  
7. Giving is an important part of your Christian life. It shows not only that you trust God to meet your needs with less than all of your income, but it also shows the value you place in the things that have to do with the kingdom of God. What investments are you making to help spread the gospel message with your finances?
  
8. Paul writes in verse 17 "not that I seek the gift" meaning he was not prodding them for money. How might that truth be applied to the church today?
  
9. Paul writes that he was seeking the fruit that would abound in their account if they were to invest in the spreading of the gospel. Think about the idea of a savings account that you make deposits into. How can we make spiritual deposits into an eternal account?
  
10. What did Jesus say about this idea in Matthew 6:19-21?
  
11. What kind of fruit will you bear in eternity if you make investments in the spreading of the gospel?

12. What kind of fruit will you bear now by doing the same?
13. What keeps people from making those investments?
14. What promise does Paul share with those who were making investments in the kingdom of God?
15. How might you apply that promise to your current circumstances?
16. Paul ends this section referring to glory being given to God. How will living for God's glory change the way you give?

### Read Philippians 4:21-23

1. How are believers described in verse 21?
2. Think about the idea of saints being a part of Caesar's household. How do you think they heard about Christ?
3. What kind of a lasting impact might that have on Rome?

### **For Discussion**

- I. What promise does Paul leave the church with as he closes this letter?
  - How can we apply those promises?

# Your Account

## *Philippians 4:17*

***“Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.”***

As this letter comes to a close, Paul is careful to thank the Philippian church for their generosity. On numerous occasions they had sent aid to Paul, enabling him to continue in the ministry. Although he was not their pastor, they placed a high value on the activities he was undertaking for the kingdom, and sent financial support as he took the Gospel around the world. Because of the sensitivity of the subject of giving, Paul is careful to sandwich it between two very important ministry principles.

## *Philippians 4:11*

***“Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content ...”***

Paul was not looking at ministry as a way to make a living, or live a comfortable life. He saw the ministry for what it actually was, the call of God to bring the message of salvation to a dying world. As a result, he learned to be content in whatever condition he found himself. At times, Paul saw large numbers come to Christ and was able to focus his time and energies exclusively on ministry since the church provided for his physical needs. Other times, whether by need or principle, Paul chose to work with his hands to provide for his needs so as not to be a burden to others. In doing this, he learned he could be content with the call of God when things were comfortable or when they were difficult.

## *Philippians 4:19*

***“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”***

Often when we hear preachers talk about giving, they make it sound as though the driving force behind ministry is money. They seem to imply, if you don't give, the work of God will not continue. In a subtle way they are saying God needs your cash because He cannot finance His own endeavors. Paul did not see it that way. He believed God would always supply what was needed for what He calls us to do.

## *Philippians 4:17*

***“Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.”***

Paul's reason for discussing giving was not to manipulate the people into giving more, or to help finance a vision that he was developing. Instead, he was actually concerned for their personal growth. Knowing God would always provide for His own needs, Paul saw giving for what it truly is, an opportunity to trust the Lord and grow in Christ. The same is true whether we are giving of our time, talents, or treasure. When we come to the place where we are willing to say, “I am going to take however little or much I have, and give it to the Lord.” It is then, that we are investing in things that are eternal. As a result we begin to experience growth that we have never had before. Whether it is money, or serving in one capacity or another, do not look at giving to your local church as a burden but as an opportunity to grow. As you step forward in faith, trusting yourself and all you have into the hands of Jesus, you will find that you begin to bear fruit in your

life like never before. Serving Jesus with all you are and all you have is the fast track to growing in Christ and storing treasures in the life to come.

Pastor Jim



# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 5

### Colossians 1

#### Read Colossians 1:1-2

1. How does Paul refer to himself in verse 1?
  
2. According to verse 1, how did Paul become an apostle?
  
3. How does Paul refer to Timothy?
  
4. According to verse 2 to whom was this letter written?
  
5. Define the following terms from verse 2.
  - Saints
  
  - Faithful
  
  - Brethren
  
  - Grace
  
  - Peace
  
6. How is God described in verse 2?

## Read Colossians 1:3-8

1. Paul declares that he prays regularly for the Colossians Christians. Share your thoughts on prayer.
  - What is prayer?
  - Why do we pray?
  - How often should we pray for others?
  - Who are you praying for on a regular basis?
2. In verse 4-5 Paul gives several reasons why he was praying for the Colossians. What are they?

### For Discussion

- A. Paul writes about how the Colossians loved the saints. Jesus said loving one another is the second greatest commandment.
  - List 3 practical things can you do this week to show the love of God to others.
  - Share how you did each of these things
3. According to verse 6, how did the Colossians hear about Christ?
4. According to verse 6 what does the Gospel produce?

### For Discussion

- B. How did you hear the Gospel?
  - What fruit have you seen in your life since coming to believe in Christ?

5. How is Epaphras described in verse 7?
  
6. Epaphras is mentioned in two more verses in the Bible. What do we learn about him from these verses?
  - Colossians 4:12
  
  - Philemon 1:23

**For Discussion**

C. How would others describe you and your service of Christ?

- How does that encourage you to be more committed to Christ?

**Read Colossians 1:9-14**

Prayer was an important part of the life of Paul. In several of his letters he not only exhorts others to pray but sets an example by praying for others.

1. How often did Paul pray his friends in Colosse?
  
2. What is the first request Paul makes on their behalf? See verse 9
  
3. Why is it important to seek God for His will for our lives?
  
4. List the 3 requests found in verse 10.

5. What does it mean to walk worthy?
  
6. How will bearing fruit and increasing in the knowledge of God help us to walk worthy?
  
7. According to John 15, what is the secret to bearing fruit as a believer?
  
8. What things can we do to ensure that we are increasing in the knowledge of God?
  
9. What request is found in verse 11?
  
10. In your own words describe the glorious power of God.
  
11. Paul declares that the power of God is "For patience and long suffering." Why do we need God's power to be patient?
  
12. What areas are you in need of long suffering today?
  
13. It may seem contrary to talk about joy and long suffering in the same sentence. How is it possible for a believer to be filled with joy during times of suffering?

**For Discussion**

- D. What is an inheritance?

- Share everything you can think of about the inheritance the child of God receives now.
  
- Share everything you can think of about the inheritance we receive when this life comes to an end.

14. The Bible teaches that prior to becoming a follower of Jesus we were held captive to sin and sat under the judgment of God. According to verse 13 we are now conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of God. Take a few moments to examine what it means to be conveyed into His kingdom. Share what you learned.

15. Define the following terms from verse 14.

- Redemption
  
- Forgiveness

16. Where are redemption and forgiveness found?

17. Why can they not be found anywhere else?

## Read Colossians 1:15-8

### **For Discussion**

E. This passage is an amazing description of Christ and should serve to change how we view who Jesus is. Read through the text and list everything that we are told about Jesus.

- What do we learn about who God is by looking at Jesus?

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the image of the invisible God?
2. The term firstborn speaks not only of the first child born to a family but also of a position of authority in a family. Jacob, although the second son, was given the authority of the firstborn. Paul is not saying that Jesus was a created being but that he has authority over all creation. According to verse 16-17, what authority does Jesus have over creation?
3. Think about the phrase "All things were created through Him and for Him." How should that affect the way you are living?
4. Since all things were created for Him, what does that say regarding the resources available to God to provide for all your needs?
5. Paul says that in Jesus all things consist. This word means to be held together. How does the fact that Jesus holds all things together encourage you?
6. How is the church described in verse 18?
7. What is Jesus' position in the church?

**For Discussion**

- F. Why is it sometimes difficult to allow Him to be the head and have the preeminence?

**Read Colossians 1:19-23**

1. What does it mean to be reconciled to God?

2. How is reconciliation possible?
  
3. How should that affect the way we treat those who have been unkind to us?

**For Discussion**

G. Look carefully at 2Corinthians 5:18-20, because we have been reconciled to God what responsibility do we have in the world?

4. Verse 21 describes a person before they come to Christ. Explain the verse in your own words.
  
5. How does being reminded of who we were before Christ impact the way we view those who have not yet come to Christ?
  
6. According to verse 22 what are the results of being reconciled to God?
  
7. What are we exhorted to do in verse 23?
  
8. According to verse 23, how was it that "every creature under heaven" heard the message of the gospel?

**For Discussion**

H. Since God has chosen us to be the mouthpieces to share the love of Christ with the world, how are you currently fulfilling this responsibility?

- Some have suggested that we share the gospel not with words but with actions. Why is it necessary to use words to share the gospel with others?
- Why is important to be a good example as a Christian to those with whom we are sharing?

## Read Colossians 1:24-29

1. Colossians 1:24 is often misinterpreted. Paul is simply saying that the suffering he experienced as a result of sharing Christ with others is a further expression of the love of God for the world. Not only did Jesus suffer so we could be saved but his followers also suffer so people can hear about Christ. What did it cost the person who shared Christ with you?
2. Define the word stewardship.
3. What stewardship was Paul given?
4. What stewardship do you think you have been given?
5. The word mystery means something that cannot be known unless God revealed it. According to verse 27, what mystery has been revealed to mankind?

### **For Discussion**

- I. What verbs does Paul use in Colossians 1:28-29 to describe his involvement in the gospel?
  - What involvement do you have in sharing the gospel with others?

# Seeing The Invisible

*Colossians 1:15*

***“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”***

The heart of man cries out for God. From the small child, to the individual who has faced a devastating loss, or grueling pain, their hearts cry out to know God. In an attempt to answer the heart's cry, men create God in their own image. Some have invented a vast, complicated religious system, while others have checked out. They have decided, with all the different religions, no one can know for sure. To this Paul has a simple answer,

***“He is the image of the invisible God . . .”***

While we cannot see God with the natural eye, we do not have to live our lives as though He is hidden from us. In order to answer the cry of the heart, God sent His Son, so we would forever know who God is, and what He is like. There is no need to use our imaginations or experiences in an attempt to create a God who fits our liking. We just need to open the pages of the Bible and see for ourselves who God is. As we watch Jesus walk the streets of Israel, encountering people in their real life situations, we learn how God feels about us, and what He desires to do in our lives. We see Him reaching out to the hurting, with a hand of compassion, and we learn that He cares about our needs, concerns and pain. We watch as He interacts with sinners, and we find, in all our sin, He still loves us. He desires to forgive our sins and bring us to Himself. We know He spent time, daily, with those who chose to follow Him, revealing the secrets of eternity to them. We learn, as we walk with Him daily, He will speak to us. He even takes common men, whose lives would have gone unnoticed by the world, and uses them to make a mark on the world. Their service will outlast their lives, and they will store up treasures in heaven that will last forever.

Jesus is the image of the invisible God. We no longer have to guess who God is, or what He is like. We just need to know Jesus. Instead of listening to all the voices screaming out of confusion, attempting to explain a God they have never seen, let's go to the pages of the Bible and meet Jesus face-to-face. What an amazing God we have, that He would take on the form of man to reveal Himself to us.

Why not pray right now and ask God to reveal Himself to you?

Pastor Jim



# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 6

### Colossians 2

#### Read Colossians 2:1-3

1. Paul speaks of being in conflict. Who was he so concerned about?
2. Based on 2:1 do you think Paul had ever been to Colosse?
3. According to verse 2, what 3 things did Paul desire for the Colossians believers?

#### **For Discussion**

- A. What are some of the things that discourage our hearts?
- B. What are some things God uses to encourage us?
4. What are some ways believers can be knit together in love?
5. Look at the relationship between David and Jonathan, what did Jonathan do to knit His and David's hearts together? (1Samuel 18:1-4)

**For Discussion**

C. Paul uses the term riches to describe an increase in our understanding of God. How does knowing God better make us richer?

- Riches provide us with resources in difficult times. How will a better knowledge of God provide you with greater resources?

6. Write out Colossians 2:3

7. If all the riches of wisdom are hidden in Christ what should we do when we are confused in life?

8. What are some practical ways we can seek Christ for wisdom?

**Read Colossians 2:4-10**

1. According to 2:4 what danger were the Colossians facing?

2. What did Paul do to arm them against this danger?

**For Discussion**

D. Define the word persuasive.

- How are persuasive words used to lure believers away from the Lord?

- Share a time when you were allured away from doing what was right in the eyes of God. What drew you away?
3. According to 2:5 what did Paul look forward to seeing in the Colossians?
  4. What do you think steadfast faith is?
  5. How can we be more steadfast in faith?

**For Discussion**

E. Look carefully at 2:6 and answer the following questions.

- How did you receive Christ?
- How are you currently walking with Christ?
- What obstacles are you facing?
- What are you doing to overcome them?

F. Notice the terms rooted, built up and established. There is a clear progression. Rooted goes down, built goes up and established speaks of longevity. Consider the phrase "as you have been taught."

- What things can we do to be more rooted in Christ?
- What can we do to be more built up?
- What can we do to be established?

6. Verse 8 is a warning. What are the Colossians warned against?

**For Discussion**

- G. Clearly the philosophy, worldview and value system of the world is different than that of Christ. In what ways do you see this evident today?
- There are two separate dangers that the philosophy of the world present. For some there is the danger of accepting that philosophy and being led away from the Lord. For others there is the danger of being turned off by that philosophy and failing to see people as God sees them. This often leads to isolation, elitism and legalism. What can we do to ensure that we do not become like the Pharisees in our outlook at actions toward the world around us?
7. Look carefully at 2:9-10, what are we told about Jesus?
8. As a result what is true of us?
9. If a person is complete in Christ what does that say about our lives before we met Jesus?
10. How did this affect your decision to follow Jesus?

**Read Colossians 2:11-15**

Circumcision is a medical procedure that served as a religious symbol under the Old Covenant. God made a pact with Abraham filled with grand promises. Abraham's part was to circumcise himself and his children. Paul uses this action as an illustration of what happens to a person when they trust in Christ. He refers to the "putting off of the body of sins."

1. Describe how your life changed when you came to trust in Christ.

2. Baptism is a physical act that illustrates a changed life. We walk into the water one way and walk out another. What things have you laid aside since coming to Christ?
3. What things do you still need to lay aside?
4. Just as Christ rose from the dead so those who trust in Christ are given new life. We were once dead now we have been made alive. What are some evidences you see in your life that you have been born again?
5. Paul writes that in addition to removing sin and making us come to life the cross also provides the forgiveness of sin. According to 2:14 how was our sin been removed?
6. What is significant about the fact that the handwriting that was against us has been wiped away?
7. According to 2:15 how has the forgiveness of sin affected the devil's ability to attack the Christian?
8. It is pretty common for us to be condemned by our failures. How do verses 14-15 help you to move past personal sin and struggles?

### Read Colossians 2:16-23

1. In 2:16 Paul makes reference to the Old Testament feasts and Sabbath. In what way do you think the Colossians were being judged by others as it relates to these things?

2. How does Paul refer to Christ in 2:17?
3. Think about the idea of a shadow and the substance that cast the shadow. What do you think Paul is trying to teach us about Jesus?
4. Why would it be silly to emphasize a shadow and lose sight of the substance?
5. What does Paul warn against in 2:18?

**For Discussion**

H. How do religious ordinances sometimes get in the way of relationship with God?

- What are some ways you have been religious and not really focused upon your relationship with Jesus?
6. How does Paul refer to Jesus in 2:19?
  7. What is significant about the fact that Jesus is our head?
  8. What role does your head play as it relates to the rest of the body?
  9. In 2:20-23 Paul explains the folly of thinking that religious activity will be enough in your walk with God. Look carefully at 2:23 why is being religious not enough?

**For Discussion**

I. What kind of things are of real value in the struggle we have against our flesh?

- Think about the areas you struggle with, perhaps this like fear, anger, discouragement or doubt. What are some practical ways that you can battle against these areas?
  
- How can the Bible help in this battle?
  
- What role do you think others play in this?

10. Jesus told us that when we pray we should get alone with Him, ask seek and knock. Take some time to pray specifically for this area of your Christian life.

# Treasure

*Colossians 2:3*

***“... in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”***

Knowledge is a word which speaks of information. We increase in our knowledge of God as we read the Word of God and walk with Him daily. However, wisdom is another thing all together. We might define it as “the proper application of knowledge,” or more simply as, “knowing what to do.” How many times have you faced decisions in life where you were not sure what to do, because you have not been that way before? Wisdom is acquired by experience, by careful observation of the experience of others, or by receiving it from heaven.

Notice, Paul writes “All wisdom is hidden in Christ.” We can find great comfort in knowing, while we might not know what we are doing, Christ has been that way before and can provide direction through the fog of life. Notice also, Paul says this wisdom is hidden in Christ. It is not something hidden from us, so we cannot have it, but something hidden so we will seek after it. The primary purpose of salvation is to know God, and wisdom is hidden in Him so we will seek Christ more. The question is, how do we access the wisdom that is hidden in Christ?

*James 1:5*

***“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”***

The first step is to pray. We are exhorted to understand, that through prayer, we can cast all burdens at the feet of Jesus. Sometimes, the greatest burden can be facing situations for which we have no answers. Parenting can certainly be like that. As the children grow, we are constantly walking down roads we have never traveled before. We want desperately to make decisions that will positively impact our children for the kingdom of heaven, and ensure they have a bright and successful future. The problem is we often do not have a clue as to what we are doing. It is encouraging to know, “in Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom”. The secret to receiving His wisdom through prayer is to be willing to do things His way. Sometimes, we do not seek the mind of God, because we have already determined we do not want to do what He says.

*Deuteronomy 4:6*

***“Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’”***

Prayer is where we ask questions, and the Word of God is where we find answers. Sometimes, we will pray for things and then spend our time thinking up a solution, without considering what God has written to us in His Word. Israel was told, if they followed the teaching of the Word of God, it would lead to wisdom, and the people around them would be shocked at how smart they were. You see, doing what God says, even when it might not make sense, will always lead to the wisest roads. Other people, when the fruit of those decisions come to light, will be shocked at how smart you seem, all because you chose to do things God’s way.

If you are in need of wisdom because you are on a road you have never traveled before, or perhaps you went the wrong way in the past, the key is to lay your life out before the Lord in prayer. Then sit before His Word, and allow Him to write your road map for you. Using a concordance can be helpful to look up the subjects you are facing, and is a great way to learn to think and act Biblically.

Pastor Jim



# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 7

### Colossians 3

#### Read Colossians 3:1-11

1. The basis of the commands in chapter 3 stem from the fact that we have been raised with Christ. This is a reference to what happens when we believe. Look at the following verses and explain what they say about what happens when we are saved.
  - John 5:24
  - Acts 26:7-8
  - Acts 13:38-89
  - John 8:36
  - Galatians 5:1
2. Colossians 3:1-2, because we have been raised with Christ what does Paul command us to do?
3. What is the connection between seeking things that are above and setting our minds on things that are above?
4. In Colossians 3:3 Paul declares that we have died, this is in the past tense. In what way do we die when we come to Christ?
5. In what ways are we made alive?

6. What two promises are given in Colossians 3:4?
  
7. Continuing to encourage our behavior what are we exhorted to do in Colossians 3:5?
  
8. Define the following terms
  - Fornication
  - Uncleaness
  - Passion
  - Evil Desire
  - Coveteousness
  - Idolatry

**For Discussion**

A. Why do you think Paul refers to covetousness as idolatry?

- In what way have you been guilty of this?

9. Define the term wrath?

10. To whom does Paul say wrath is coming?

11. Notice the tense of the verb in Colossians 3:7, what does this teach us about the behaviors sited in verse 5?

**For Discussion**

B. Beginning with Colossians 3:8 Paul illustrates the change of behavior expected from a believer by referring to our apparel. What 6 things does he tell us we need to put off?

- Of those 6 things are there any that you need to currently put off?

12. In your own words explain the difference between being angry and holding on to anger.

**For Discussion**

C. How would being angry limit a person's witness for Christ?

D. How would using filthy language limit a person's witness for Christ?

13. According to Colossians 3:10, what are we to put on in place of these old behaviors?

14. What do you think Paul means by "the new man?"

15. How is the new man renewed?

16. What does it mean to be renewed in knowledge? See romans 12:1-2

17. What do we learn about the church from Colossians 3:11?

18. Since we have all come from the same background (death, darkness and bondage to sin) and we are all saved the same way (through faith in Christ) how should believers view each other?

### Read Colossians 3:12-17

1. Continuing with the illustration of getting dressed what does Paul tell us we need to put on? 3:12
  
2. Define the following terms
  - Mercy
  
  - Kindness
  
  - Humility
  
  - Meekness
  
  - Long suffering

#### **For Discussion**

- E. We use the phrase "putting up with someone." What is the difference between putting up with someone and bearing the burdens of someone?

- Share a way you have helped bear someone else's burden this month.

3. In addition to bearing with one another what else are we commanded to do in Colossians 3:13?

#### **For Discussion**

- F. Read Matthew 18:21-35, share what you learn about forgiveness.

4. Paul has commanded us to put on several new behaviors, according to Colossians 3:14 what is the most important apparel for the Christian?

**For Discussion**

G. Explain how we can practically express love to...

- Our husbands
  - Our children
  - Our church family
  - Our unsaved neighbors
5. Paul demands that we let peace rule in our hearts. Look up the following verses and share what they teach us about peace.
    - Isaiah 48:22
    - John 14:27
    - Philippians 4:6-7
  6. What are some practical ways that we can let peace rule in our hearts?
  7. What are some enemies of peace?
  8. What are we commanded to do in Colossians 3:16?
  9. Define the word "dwell."
  10. How can we let the word of Christ dwell in us instead of simply having it visit for short seasons?

11. In addition to letting the word of God dwell in us, what else does Colossians 3:16 tell us to do with the word of God?
12. What are some practical ways you can fulfill the command to teach the Bible?
13. What are some ways you can use the word of God to admonish others?
14. Look up Romans 2:21, how does that affect the way we admonish others?

**For Discussion**

H. Write out Colossians 3:17.

- In your own words explain Colossians 3:17
- In what areas of your life do you think you are applying Colossians 3:17?
- In what areas of your life are you failing to apply Colossians 3:17?
- How can you make a change today?

**Read Colossians 3:18-25**

1. Paul begins to focus upon the family and society. He explains the proper behavior of a believer toward those around them. How are the following to behave?
  - Wives

- Husbands
  - Children
  - Fathers
  - Servants
  - Masters
2. How can you practically apply Colossians 3:18 to your life today?
  3. Verse 21 addresses fathers but could easily be applied to parents. How can you apply this verse to your home?
  4. If obedient children are pleasing to the Lord what are some practical ways we can develop obedience in our children?
  5. How can this be done without provoking or discouraging them?

**For Discussion**

- I. What difference do you think our witness would be if we allowed Jesus to impact our homes in a greater way?
  - J. What value does a good marriage play in witnessing to others?
6. Paul's teaching regarding bond servants and masters can be applied to the workplace. What could an employee learn from Colossians 3:22-24?

7. What could an employer learn?
  
8. How could the phrase "not with eye service as men pleasers" be applied to your life?

**For Discussion**

K. Write out Colossians 3:23.

- In your own words explain Colossians 3:23.
  
  - In what areas of your life do you think you are applying Colossians 3:23?
  
  - In what areas of your life are you failing to apply Colossians 3:23?
  
  - What changes do you think you can make?
9. What promise are we given in Colossians 3:24?
  
  10. How does the fact that when we serve others we are actually serving Jesus motivate you to do what is right even if you receive no recognition for doing so?

# I Haven't Been This Way

*Colossians 3:1*

***“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.”***

Sin is a killer. It is guilty of taking the spiritual life from all of us. God warned Adam that if he disobeyed the command of God and partook of what was forbidden, he would die. While many years transpired before his physical death, the moment Adam sinned, he experienced spiritual death, or separation from God. Since we are sons and daughters of Adam, we have all joined him in his sin and its consequences. The remedy for that condition is faith in Christ. The moment we put our trust in the work of Christ on the cross, our sins are forgiven, and we who were dead in sin, come alive to God. Jesus called that being “born again.” Paul calls it being raised with Christ. Since this is such a miraculous event, it should have tremendous impact on the way we live our lives. Paul goes on to give a series of exhortations, all predicated on the fact that, we who were dead have been made alive.

***“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” Colossians 3:2***

While it is necessary to be earthly minded in the sense of meeting our responsibilities, caring for the needs of others, and impacting our world for the kingdom of heaven, it is completely unnecessary for us to be carnally minded. No more, should our thoughts be filled with the pursuits of the flesh. Instead, we should set our minds to think of ways to live righteously and love others.

***“Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth . . .” Colossians 3:5***

Paul is echoing the words of Jesus when He said, “If your eye causes you to sin pluck it out.” Sometimes we must take radical action against those traits that lead us to sin. If we are having a problem with one particular sin, we must take radical action to ensure we make it more and more difficult to fail.

***“But now you yourselves are to put off all these . . .” Colossians 3:8***

Paul lists the things that were part of our lives before coming to Christ; things we must eradicate from our lives now. While those things might have been acceptable before you came to Christ, they have no part in your life now.

***“Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on...” Colossians 3:12***

Paul never reduced Christianity to what we don't do. To him, meeting Christ meant a total transformation of our life. Old habits and actions would be replaced with new ones. After all, we are new creations in Christ, the old has passed away and all things have become new. The way I look at God, and the way I treat others, should be transformed since coming to Christ.

***“Wives... Husbands... Children... Bondservants...”***

A transformed life results in transformed relationships. Many of us grew up with poor relationship examples. Perhaps your parents divorced, or you had a particularly cruel father or distant mother. Often, those examples impact the way we treat our spouse and children. Without even knowing it, we are following the patterns set for us. The remedy for that is to look at each

relationship in light of Christ. Paul gives us fresh insight into how a husband and wife are to relate to one another, how parents and children should treat each other, and what we should be doing at work. Our Christianity should radically affect the life we live.

***“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men. . . ” Colossians 3:23***

Before coming to Christ, my life was consumed with pleasing me. Now that I have been born again, my desires should be to please God, above all things. Paul exhorts us to look at life through the lens of pleasing God. Whatever we are doing, we should do it as unto the Lord.

Pastor Jim

# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 8

### Colossians 4

#### Read Colossians 4:1

1. This verse is connected with the closing thoughts of the last chapter regarding working diligently. Look carefully at the verse, what does it teach us about Jesus?
2. Define the word master
3. How should the fact that Jesus is our Master affect the way we are living?

#### Read Colossians 4:2-6

1. What are we commanded to do in Colossians 4:2?
2. Define the word earnestly.
3. Define the word vigilant.

#### **For Discussion**

A. In what way should prayer be done earnestly and vigilantly?

- In what ways can you be more earnest in your prayer life?

- In what ways can you be more vigilant in your prayer life?
4. What is thanksgiving an important part of prayer?
  5. Paul realized the necessity of prayer and commissioned the church to be praying for him. What specifically does he request prayer for?

**For Discussion**

- B. Take a few moments to pray for an open door to share Christ with someone this week.
  - Share the door the Lord opened for you and how you were used by God this week.
6. In Colossians 4:3 Paul refers to being in chains. How does knowing that Paul was in prison when writing this letter impact some of the things he wrote?
7. What are we commanded to do in Colossians 4:5
8. Who does the term "outside" refer to?

**For Discussion**

- C. Why is it important to walk carefully when around unbelievers?
  - Why is it common to let our guard down around believers? How can this be dangerous?

9. Define the word redeeming
10. What are some ways we can redeem the time?
11. What should we do with redeemed time?
12. What are we commanded to do in Colossians 4:6?
13. What is significant about the fact that our speech should be full of grace and only seasoned with salt?
14. What do you think Paul means by that?

### Read Colossians 4:7-14

1. Make a list of each character from the text.
2. Using a concordance find out some further information regarding each of these characters.

### **For Discussion**

- D. Of the characters listed whose story means most to you and why?
3. What 3 things do we learn about Tychicus?

4. What about your life would make someone think you were a faithful servant of the Lord?
  
5. How is Onesimus described in Colossians 4:9

**For Discussion**

- E. Notice these two men were traveling together to serve the Lord. What are some of the advantages of teaming with others to serve Christ?
  
6. Colossians 4:10 refers to special instructions given regarding Mark. Look back at Acts 15:36-40, why do you think these special instructions were necessary?
  
7. Without giving details Paul refers to Aristarchus, Mark and Justus as being a comfort to him. In what ways can you be a comfort to those who are in pastoral ministry?
  
8. What do we learn about Epaphras from Colossians 4:12-13?

**For Discussion**

- F. What is significant about the fact that Epaphras labored in prayer?
  - Why is prayer sometimes laborious?
  
9. What specifically did Epaphras pray for the Colossian believers?

10. According to Colossians 4:14 what was Luke's profession?

**For Discussion**

G. According to Colossians 4:14 where did this church meet?

- What impression would people have about your walk with Jesus if they were allowed to freely walk about your home?
  
- How is your home being used to further the kingdom of God?
  
- What are some ways you do to make your home a place where Jesus is glorified more?

**Read Colossians 4:16-18**

1. According to Colossians 4:16 where else did Paul want this letter read?
  
2. Read Revelation 3:14-22. What do you learn about the Laodicean church?
  
3. What about the Laodiceans serves as a warning to you as you walk with God?

**For Discussion**

H. Jesus words to the Laodicean church were more than 50 years after Colossians was written. Think back over what you learned in the study of Colossians, how could the message of this letter save the church from becoming lukewarm?

4. Look carefully at Colossians 4:17, what is Archippus exhorted to do?
5. Define the term "take heed."
6. In what ways do you need to take heed to the ministry you have been given?
7. All of us have been given the ministry of using our daily life to share the gospel with others. Share how you have been fulfilling this ministry lately.
8. Why do you think Paul asked the church to remember his chains?

**For Discussion**

- I. Share one thing from the study of Colossians that has impacted the way you are living.

# Get To Work

*Colossians 4:17*

***“And say to Archippus, ‘Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.’”***

Paul closes out his letter to the Colossians by referring to the ministries of a number of believers. Luke, Mark and Barnabas are very well-known, while others, like Tychicus and Epaphras, are a little less familiar to some of us. In each case, Paul is referring to them in a positive light, and speaking of the effectiveness of their ministries. Tychicus was the faithful traveler who delivered this letter, and others, to its recipients. Aristarchus, Mark, and Justus are mentioned as fellow prisoners and fellow workers for the Kingdom, while Epaphras is called a bondservant, and described as one who labors fervently for the salvation of others. Tucked away in this list of giants, men who had a significant impact upon this world for God’s Kingdom, is reference to a man named Archippus. While we know very little about him (he is mentioned only here and in Philemon) we do find him the subject of an important exhortation.

***“And say to Archippus, ‘Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.’”***

While we are not given great detail, we can surmise from what Paul writes that Archippus had been called and equipped by God for a certain ministry and he was neglecting to fulfill it. It may have been during a Bible study, that Archippus was first stirred with the sense that God might want to use him. He may have contacted the leadership of his church and received prayer and instruction on the matter. However he received the call of God, it is quite apparent he was not doing that which God had called him. Paul’s exhortation might be paraphrased as “Archippus, get busy.”

I think his story is an all too common one. I believe many of us have sensed the call of God on our lives as it relates to serving the Lord in our homes, churches and community, only to be discouraged by our own weaknesses or by the greatness of the task. Some have taken the initial steps to fulfill the call of God, only to be disheartened, and find themselves on the sidelines, watching. Paul’s exhortation to us is “take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.” Get busy and get to work! While there may be a long list of excuses justifying why we are not currently serving the Lord, these are all trumped by the fact that God has called you, and He will always equip those whom He calls. If you do not sense that you are equipped, it may be because you are not doing what He asks. There was no reason for Peter to be buoyant until his feet touched the water. (Matthew 14:25-30)

It is encouraging to note, there is one further reference to Archippus in Scripture. He is mentioned in Paul’s letter to Philemon, where he is called a fellow soldier. It seems he took the exhortation seriously. He got busy doing what God had called him to do, the kingdom was furthered, and he was honored. If you are not sure what God has called you to do, simply sit before Him and make yourself available. Jesus said we should pray for more laborers for the harvest is waiting.

Pastor Jim

