

COLOSSIANS

Life in our supreme & sufficient Savior

Colossians – Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

Review of Background

- Occasion: False teachers have promised ritual ways to experience God’s presence and blessing (mysticism/legalism). Paul’s correction in the letter is that those who have trusted in Jesus can already experience the fullness of God’s presence through what has been provided already for the believer in Jesus.
- Theme verse: “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 2:9-10)
- Theme of the Class: Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

Class Outline

- Part 1: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Thinking (1-3:4)
- Part 2: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Living (3:5-4:6)
- Part 3: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Fellowship (4:7-18)

Lesson 12 – Colossians 4:7-18

Enjoy the fellowship of laboring for Jesus together!

1. Share sweet fellowship in Jesus (4:7-9).

- a. Tychicus: a faithful brother coming from Paul (7-8).
 - b. Onesimus: a faithful brother coming back to them (9).
2. Work together for Jesus (4:10-14).
- a. Aristarchus: Stick together in suffering (10a).
 - b. Mark: Seek restoration in Jesus (10b).
 - c. Justus: Sacrifice for the cause of Jesus (11).
 - d. Epaphras: Strive for one another in prayer (12-13).
 - e. Luke: Serve with your abilities (14a).
 - f. Demas: Stay on track for Christ (14b).
3. Remember Paul's final instructions (4:15-18).
- a. Greet one another (15).
 - b. Listen to the Word (16).
 - c. Fulfill your ministry (17).
 - d. Pray for gospel ministry (18a).
 - e. Depend on God's grace (18b).

Application

Enjoy sharing sweet fellowship in Jesus – We need to see with these kinds of eyes! If they *are* family, then we show them the love of Christ, since we are both part of His family! They are a beloved brother or sister. If they aren't family, then we show them the love of Christ, that they might be saved! We need overriding, prevailing love as family in Christ! This is the ability to see another person in the church, remember that I love Jesus, they love Jesus, Jesus died for me, Jesus died for them, Jesus forgave me, Jesus forgave them. Those foundational facts free me to love them no matter their past, no matter their "identity." I love them as part of my family in Christ. Serving together faithfully really strengthens our bond with one another.

Work together for Jesus – To work together for Christ, we need to stick together in suffering! Being a Christian means there will be hard times, yet we keep going! We are not alarmed by suffering. Instead, we stick together. When one of us goes through a hard time, we don't vanish and disappear. I'd help, but I don't want to get messy... No, we stick together in suffering because we are devoted to the cause of Christ.

When you have broken fellowship with someone, seek restoration in Christ! You may have messed up! You may have abandoned the cause. In Christ, there is always room for restoration. Seek it! Ask forgiveness, humble yourself and seek mercy. In Christ, we can give restoration. We ought to give people a second chance. Give them time to learn and grow, yes, but seek restoration.

To work together for Christ, we need to be ready to sacrifice for the cause of Christ. To work together for Christ, we must pray! Strive for one another in prayer. We must pray for one another...fervently...wrestling in prayer.

How can you use your abilities to serve the Lord? It's not about using them the way you want to use them; it's about serving the Lord.

Stay on track for Christ! Keep guarding against temptation. Welcome accountability to keep sin at bay. Keep pursuing Christ. Don't let the attraction of the world creep in. It doesn't matter how good you are doing today, set yourself up to do well tomorrow. Keep pursuing Him.

Remember Paul's final instructions – A warm, kind greeting goes a long way! We get so task focused we lose sight of people. Greetings express the reality that people are most important, and people are our primary concern. "Hello, I'm glad to see you!"

It is important that we listen to the Word. This letter was not just for the pastor or an individual, but for the people. Paul wanted them to hear it and circulate it. The Word is central to our function as a local church. We must be a people who read and hear the Word of God. The preaching ought to focus on the Word of God. Our services ought to be rich with the Word of God.

All of us are called to serve! In fact, each one of us has been enabled by God's Spirit to serve in the church for His glory (1 Peter 4:11). We should take heed to fulfill our service! Get involved, do your part. Each member has a role in the body of Christ! There's no such thing as just attending – just being there. Every person has a part in the ministry, as enabled by God's Spirit

We must live dependent on the grace of God. Rather than "good luck" our greatest hope for help should be: "God's grace be with you!"