

Colossians Study Week 4

Colossians 2:1-8

Now more than ever, the world needs to see a church “knit together by strong ties of love”. Paul’s words to the Early church are ringing ever so true today. He also prays that our roots will go down deep, and our lives would be built on Jesus, so that we would grow strong and exude thankfulness. Have you been thankful during 2020? Has your life reflected a mature and deep relationship with Jesus?

*****Read Colossians 2:1-8*****

BUILT DIFFERENT

Paul opens chapter two not only writing to the church in Colossae, but mentions the church in Laodicea. Laodicea was located just a few miles away from Colossae, and was a wealthy booming city. The city was known for banking, wool and had a medical school. One of the negatives about the city... It had a water problem. They brought in cold water from one city, and hot water from another. By the time the water reached the city, the cold water was lukewarm and the hot water was lukewarm. The water was neither refreshing nor therapeutic... it was useless. In Revelation 3, Jesus rebukes the church of Laodicea for being lukewarm and becoming indifferent.

- **Think about the last few months, have you been ‘knit together in love’ with other believers, or have you allowed your current circumstances to cause you to complain, be divisive and break apart from the church? Are you lukewarm? Are you indifferent to relationships, to growth, to serving Jesus? Have you had the attitude that things are good, life is good, I don't need to work and grow?**
 - Read the following verses and discuss how they are related
 - 1 Corinthians 14:31
 - Ephesians 6:22
 - Ephesians 3:16
 - Matthew 13:11

- Romans 16:25
- Revelation 3:14-22
 - The believers became lukewarm, referencing the cold water being useless and the hot water being useless. The believers didn't stand for anything and were lazy. This attitude led to them being as bland and useless as the tepid warm water. Think about taking a big sip of warm water... just gross! Well, there is nothing more disgusting than Christians who are half way in, who are "christians" only by name, but do not act or live like Jesus. You must ask the hard questions, Am I lukewarm? Make the decision today to stop following Jesus halfway. Make the decision today to go all in!
- Romans 12:11
- 1 John 4:20
- 1 Kings 8:61
- 2 Timothy 2:15
- Acts 2:42
 - Church should be an encouraging, unified place, committed to following Jesus with everything we have!

Read Colossians 2:4-8

Again, Paul was writing to combat a problem arising in the Colossian church that was similar to Gnosticism. It came against Christian teachings in several ways: It said there was hidden knowledge that was only available for certain believers, taught that the body was evil, and taught that Jesus was only a man. Paul taught that Jesus provides all the knowledge we need and it's available for everybody, taught that Jesus lived in a body and taught Jesus was fully God and fully man. Just like in Paul's time, heresy and bad teaching is all around us, so we must be well studied in what the Bible teaches.

- **Have you ever been persuaded or believed in false teaching? What are some false teachings that are prevalent today? How often do you read the Bible? Do you feel equipped to stand firm in your beliefs?**
 - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate.
 - Ephesians 4:17
 - 1 Corinthians 5:3
 - 1 Peter 5:9

- Galatians 3:26
 - Accepting or receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior is the beginning of your relationship with Him, but we must daily continue to grow and follow Him. Verse 7 really describes what we do: Let our roots grow deep in Him, Build our lives on Him, and as a result we will grow strong and overflow with thankfulness!
 - **During these last few months, have you been thankful?**
- Ephesians 3:17
- 1 Corinthians 3:9
- Ephesians 2:20
- 1 Corinthians 1:8
- 1 Corinthians 8:9
- 1 Corinthians 10:12
- Galatians 5:15
- Hebrews 3:12
 - We must be careful of any teachings or philosophies that are based solely on human ideas and experiences. Jesus is the answer, He holds all wisdom and knowledge... we can take no credit on our own. In our self-help culture we live in, there are many ways we can tackle life without even thinking about God at all. We must be read up, studied up, sober minded and always keep our eyes and focus on Jesus!
 - **How much time do you spend studying God's word vs studying things of this world?**