

Summary of Colossians

September 28, 2008 - Skip MacMillan

Summary of Colossians

Paul is writing to the church from his heart; this is passion, truth, and love.

Purpose: to speak the Gospel, to exalt Jesus Christ, to call the church to live in Christ.

Doctrine and practice: what you believe is to affect how you live.

Introduction

We always thank God - Colossians 1:1-11

Your faith in Christ Jesus, the love you have for all the saints, the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven.

- 1 Corinthians 12:9-13
- These three are foundational; love is the greatest
- Mark the Church

Paul's Prayer - Colossians 1:9-10

- God will fill you with the knowledge of His will
- You will live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way
- So you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father

1. This is Paul's heart for the church to know God:
"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3).
2. Our prayer: speak, behave and have an attitude that is worthy of the Lord and pleasing to Him.
3. Who are you trying to please in your life?

Jesus - Colossians 1:15-20

Christ defined

1. He is the beginning, the middle, and the end.
2. Colossians 1:15-21
3. What has He done?
The Gospel is God's story, Jesus Christ's mission, what God did to save you.
Col. 1:12-14, 21-22 and 2:13-15.
This gospel is bearing fruit all over the world, Col. 1:6.
4. Everything hinges here. Jesus is everything, nothing else matters, His gospel is all that matters. We are called to rest our very lives on faith in Jesus Christ, that He is God our Savior.

Paul - Colossians 1:24-2:3

1. Who is Paul? Servant of God (1:25), the God who is in us (1:29). God called and commissioned Paul (Acts 9).
2. Paul's purpose as a servant:
Present the Word, to present the Word of God, Col. 2:25.
Disciple people and present you "perfect in Christ," Col. 2:28.
Encourage, unite in love and teach Christ, Col. 2:2-3.

Issues, Jesus versus the Traditions of Men - Colossians 2:6-8

1. The early church was constantly fighting against heresies: legalism, liberalism and wrong teaching.
 - Speculative philosophy was to be avoided; it diminished Christ's fullness and his triumph over darkness.
 - Ritual observances, food laws, festivals are shadows of the Christ, Col. 2:17.
 - Worship of angels, at the expense of the Head, Christ.
 - Rigid asceticism, denounced as human devices which were powerless against self-indulgences.

All of it diminishes Christ as God or as Man; Christ is not enough.

2. There will always be something trying to pull us away from Christ and the Gospel.
People trying to add to: legalism; people trying to take away: liberalism.
Either way they are trying to get our focus off Christ and His completed work on the Cross.
3. Stay focused on Christ, stay on mission, stay on the Gospel, stay in the Scriptures.

The Believer living in Christ - Colossians 3:1-4

This is how believers are to live this life. There is no other path. God's energy is powerfully working in you.

Christianity is not negative, but deals with the negative and replaces it with good.

Put to death - Colossians 3:5-9

Sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires, greed, anger, rage, malice, slander, filthy language, lying; "you must rid yourself of all such things" (v. 8).

Church, you cannot say the Messiah is "in you, the hope of glory" (1:27) and live a life with these qualities. Recognize and identify them as sin in our lives and get rid of them; they have no part in your life or the church.

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather serve one another in love" (Galatians 5:13).

How much longer are you going to roll those tapes? How much longer are you going to throw dust in your eyes so you can wallow in that sin? How many more excuses? Put it to death and fill your life with the things of God.

Put on

The person, Colossians 3:10-17.

Virtues of God Himself - we must put on: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience. Christ is the pattern and our goal, whom we aim to please.

Relationships, Colossians 3:18-4:6.

Wives, children, outsiders.

How to interact, how to treat one another, how to love each other!

Why live this way?

1. Christ is God.
2. "When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:4).
3. Christ ransomed, redeemed, atoned, bled and died for your guilt, shame and sin; forgiving, redeeming, canceling all that stood against you. He crushed the powers and authorities; He

triumphed over them by the cross, presenting you holy, free, without blemish and free from any and all accusations.

Currently He is preparing a place for you; never again will there be sadness, tears, death. Behold He is making all things new.

Community - Colossians 4:7-18

The church is a body of people, with Jesus Christ as the Head.

The church is not one man, but One GOD and Savior, one body made up of diverse people.

Summary of Colossians:

Thanks, Prayers, Christ, Paul, Issues, How to love others, and Community.

Remember My Chains

Feeling suppressed, constrained, restricted.

Thinking why is this happening? I could be out evangelizing new towns and encouraging churches.

He had to trust that God was sovereign, God would redeem the time the locusts ate.

In the position of perceived restraint Paul wrote Scripture (see 2 Peter 3:4, 14-16), Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon of the New Testament.

How many people could Paul physically have spoken with, evangelized, encouraged in the faith?

How many more people did God speak to over the centuries through the letters He had Paul write?

God wastes nothing, certainly not your life. He is sovereign. God is making your path straight. What we perceive as restrictions God is using to further His Kingdom for all those who love Him. We must trust Him with our lives, that He is God, that He is using us to His glory, even when living in obscurity.