



Week 12: Colossians 2:1-7

1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, **2** that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, **3** in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. **4** I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. **6** For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ. **6** Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, **7** rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

About This Week's Message – April 3, 2011

This week we'll be in verses 2:1-7. The focus will be on living out our faith, using the language of our 5 Traits of a Fully Devoted Follower – we'll key in on the overarching trait of "Learn Continually". A fully devoted follower will learn continually about Jesus, and they will learn continually to image and live like Jesus.

*The following questions are the 1:10 Homework for the week of April 3, 2011.
Comments in the grey boxes will not be included on the 1:10 Homework your group receives.*

Getting Started

This week's study is based on Colossians 2:1-7.

Start by praying for the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Then read through Colossians 2:1-7 a few times before moving on.

With your group, you might want to begin by reading the passage aloud. Maybe you would have someone read beginning in v. 1 and read it imagining a group of people around them, the whole church, hanging on every word of instruction for them from Paul.

The following questions are just introductory discussion starters. Remember that throughout you don't have to cover every single question with your group. Let the Spirit lead!

1. Think back to being a kid, what did you like to learn about in school? What did you hate?
2. What is something that you would love to learn?

Digging Deeper

1. Describe a time where your heart was encouraged “to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ” (v. 2). In other words, describe a time when you were encouraged and/or felt a need to grow in your understanding of Jesus, the Bible, your faith...

Most of these will probably be in what Larry Osborne calls a “need to know” or a “need to grow” moment in his book Sticky Church.

Osborne contends that most people tend to grow the most in either a “need to know” moment – one where something comes up like a discussion at work, or a Jehovah’s Witness is coming over, or something in the new and I need to know what the bible says about this! — OR — in a “need to grow” moment – one where some crisis or event or change has created a gap that needs to be closed in a person’s life... a loved one dies, becoming a parent, taking on the leadership role in a ministry, etc.

2. Have you ever been deluded (deceived) by a plausible argument?

This could be a spiritual issue, or just something in any area of life where I believed wrongly. i.e. evolution, or the role of women in ministry, or the Kirby vacuum salesman convinced me my carpet was infested with nastiness and I needed a Kirby to clean it up. And nothing but a Kirby can do! (For the record, my parents bought a Kirby vacuum when I was a kid...)

3. How can you protect yourself, your family, and those you love from deceptions that might lead them away from the Gospel?

On Sunday we used the counterfeit money illustration – know the real thing so that you’re prepared when the fakes come along. You have to have your nose in Scripture if you’re going to recognize false teachings, etc.

Protect your family by cracking open the bible with your family or with your spouse more often than just on a Sunday morning. Teach them.

“The best defense is a good offense.”

4. **Read Colossians 2:3-4, and 1 Corinthians 1:18-31.** How is the gospel foolishness to some people? How is Jesus wisdom?

It’s too simple. Grace doesn’t make sense to many people.

5. **Read Colossians 2:6-7.** If you are a Christian, how did you receive Christ?

By faith.

This is a great opportunity for more in your group to share their story of coming to faith in Jesus!

6. Pastor Josh will often quote James MacDonald like he did this Sunday, defining biblical faith as “believing God’s word and acting upon it—no matter how I feel—because God promises a good result.” What do you think of this definition?

The most common uneasiness with this saying is usually that it is either 1) too formulaic for some people... or 2) feels like it takes faith and focuses it on works and doing.

This definition is laid out in the book “Lord, Change my Attitude!” by James MacDonald that we studied and taught through last year.

You might open up to James 2:14-26 as part of this discussion.

7. Paul says to live in or walk in Christ and follow him in the same way that you received him — by faith. How is faith necessary for living out the Christian life?

Maybe the biggest point in these last few questions is to focus on the fact that faith and works are inseparable in the life of the believer.

To reference the definition in question 6, walking in Christ requires faith because there are many times where we just plain do not want to obey God’s word or we don’t feel like acting upon it — and obeying and following Jesus is often hard and only worth it if we keep the end in mind... that God PROMISES a good result in the end, and God NEVER breaks his promises.

Faith is essential to living out the Christian life, then, because many times our only motivation for obeying Scripture is the faith that God’s word and his promises are in fact true.

Up Close

You’re going to make three lists...

List #1 — List two or three things you have learned about Jesus or God’s word in the last few months.

List #2 — List two or three ways you are learning and being challenged to live like Jesus in your life right now.

List #3 — List three things you either want to learn about Jesus/God’s word, and/or ways you want to grow to be more like Jesus in the coming months.

Facilitate some discussion about how your group can help each other in these areas... prayer, encouragement, practical helps, etc.

Spending at least some time each week praying for each other will be huge in developing community and seeing growth in your group. Don't just skip over this. If you're starting a new group, it will probably be sparse at first, but set the pace early and establish prayer for each other as an important part of your time together.

Focus first on prayer for each other, but if you need additional ideas, prayer requests will be on the inserts each week after the 1:10 Homework.