

THE THREAD | The Gospel At Work

Lesson 7: A Letter To The Colossians

Dear Parents,

Hello! We just wrapped up the seventh of our 13 lessons, looking at the story of the spread of the Gospel and Christianity in a post-crucifixion/resurrection world in our study *The Gospel At Work*. These 13 lessons are all a part of our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread*. This week, we started to talk about “the epistles,” which are letters written to the first churches after Christ’s death and resurrection. In this lesson, titled “A Letter to the Colossians,” students studied Paul’s letter to the church in Colossae. Ultimately, this letter’s purpose is to emphasize the supremacy of Christ over everything else. Paul was writing to combat the spread of false teachings among the church at Colossae. The exact heresy being refuted is not certain and may have been a blend of multiple influences, but whatever it was, the attention was being moved away from Christ and placed instead on self-discipline and the awe of other spiritual things.

Lesson Overview: We are starting to delve into “the epistles,” letters that were written to various churches that started popping up after Christ’s death and resurrection. As the last lesson did, this lesson will move away from the story of Acts in chronological form and instead will begin to dive into these letters written to help the followers of Christ who were increasing all over. As students may recall, Paul wrote many of his letters while awaiting trial in Rome. As he would hear reports (in this case from Timothy), he would take time to respond to their needs. The church in Colossae needed encouragement, teaching, and the helpful hand of Paul’s guidance. Colossians is an amazingly powerful little book that packs a big punch.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: Understand the supremacy of Christ as communicated by Paul and be challenged to grasp the truth that part of being saved by faith in Christ is that God sees us as holy and blameless.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They’ve Learned: Express how the truth of being blameless before God drives away any guilt and shame they may feel.

Scripture Passages We Studied: Colossians 1:15-23; Ephesians 1:3-4

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

Next Steps. . .

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- Did this week’s Scripture passage from Colossians change the way you look at your relationship with the Lord? (Share with your child how you feel about this idea as well.)
- What did you think of the idea that Jesus is supreme over everything?
- How would you describe your faith walk with Jesus? This is how I would describe mine... (Share yours.)
- Sometimes it’s hard for me to understand how Christ sees me. I struggle to let Him have total control in ... (Share) Do you ever struggle in these same ways?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I’m praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don't hesitate to let me know.