



EMPOWERED COLOSSIANS

Bible Studies

JULY 2024



EMPOWERED COLOSSIANS

TERM 3 MORNING TEACHING SERIES



PRIMARY AIM

To begin to explore the theme of being disciples of Jesus Christ, with a focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in empowering us for this task.

SUBSIDIARY AIMS

- To grow in our understanding of nature and work of Christ.
- To grow in our understanding of the Spirit's role in transforming the life of the believer.
- To gain a deeper understanding of the letter to the Colossians and its themes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND PASTORAL CONSIDERATIONS

Over the course of the second half of 2024, St Hilary's will be launching a new Discipleship Strategy. As we head towards this launch, our morning congregations will take some time to remind ourselves of the biblical principles for discipleship.

Paul's letter to the Colossians, likely written from a dark prison cell, was written to correct false teaching and to encourage spiritual transformation within the believer that is grounded in who Christ is, what he has done and will continue to do through his Spirit.

The letter intertwines the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection with the empowerment of the Spirit to guide us to be more like him. Many church cultures tend towards an over-emphasis on Scripture or the Spirit. However, our desire at St Hilary's is to find a healthy middle ground, which seeks to teach a solid understanding of the role of both Spirit and Scripture in our discipleship.

STRUCTURE AND TOPICS

WEEK	DATE	TOPIC	READING
1	Jul-21	Grounded in Christ	Colossians 1:1-29
2	Jul-28	Freedom & Fullness in Christ	Colossians 2:1-23
3	Aug-4	Transformed Living in Christ	Colossians 3:1-17
4	Aug-11	Transformed Relationships in Christ	Colossians 3:18-4:1
5	Aug-18	To the Ends of the Earth (Prayer, Witness & Impact)	Colossians 4:2-18

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Colossians 1:1-29

GROUNDED IN CHRIST

1. Pray and read Colossians 1:1-29.
2. In verses 1-2, what do you notice about how Paul, Timothy and the Colossian's are introduced / addressed?
3. How is Paul's thankfulness expressed (v.3)?
4. What is the nature of the Colossian's growth (v.4)?
5. What is the basis of their growth (v.5-8)?

6. What is Paul asking to God to do (v.9-14)?

7. If you were to pray this prayer for yourself and each other, what might it look like if God were to answer this prayer?

8. Verses 15-20 give glory to Jesus, the Lord of Creation and Lord of the New Creation. What stands out to you about this portrait of Jesus?

9. What is God's desire for the Colossian's based on verses 21-23?

10. What does Paul mean in verse 24? Is this an attitude we also must have to follow Jesus?

2 **Colossians 2:1-23**

FREEDOM & FULLNESS IN CHRIST

1. Pray and read Colossians 2:1-23.
2. Choose a verse from the passage and share with the group why it stands out to you.
3. In verses 1-5, what does Paul want for the Christians in Colossae and Laodicea?
4. What things does Paul encourage the Christians to do in verses 6-7? What in real terms do you think he means by each of these things?

5. Paul issues a warning in verse 8 about false teaching. This teaching was leading the Christians to depend 'on human tradition and the elemental forces of this world rather than on Christ' and relates to the Christians' proper understanding of Jesus and salvation.

What does verse 9-10 teach us about Jesus and why might this be important?

6. What understanding of baptism does Paul teach in verses 11-12?

7. In verses 13-15, how did God deal with sin? What was Christ's victory?

8. What 'is found in Christ'? (v.17)

9. What are the Christians to guard against (v.18-23)?

10. What types of rules and regulations might Christians overemphasize today?

11. Are there any areas in your own life where your knowledge and pride might lead you away from God's power and grace to save? How can we guard against this from happening?

12. Look back over the chapter and list out the things that you can find to be thankful to God for.

13. Pray for each other.

FEEDBACK?

*To share your ideas and feedback
on how to improve our bible study series,
follow the link QR code:*



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