



THE SCROLLS

Helping one another mature so we can impact our world for Christ

The Power of Truth to Change Lives

For the week of July 4th, 2005

Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving My Time
- Giving My Money
- Giving My Faith
- Giving My Life

Virtues

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness/Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-Control
- Hope
- Humility
- Forgiveness

Colossians 1:1-8

This week at FBC we begin a new series through the book of **Colossians** that promises to be full of things to learn and lessons to apply. For this reason, this edition of the Scrolls is a bit different. During this week our goal is to get the big picture of this important letter from Paul to the house church at Colosse. When the church at Colosse received this letter from Paul, they likely gathered together and read the entire letter in one hearing. Only then did they begin to consider the intricacies of Paul's teaching. So this week let us begin with the big picture. Each day we will read one chapter and consider a few questions. Towards the end of the week we will look more closely at chapter 1, verses 1-8.

“Colossians, one of the shortest of Paul’s letters, is also one of the most exciting. Writing to a young church discovering what it was like to believe in Jesus Christ and to follow him, Paul shares their sense of wonder as he encourages them to explore the treasures of the gospel and to order their lives accordingly. There is, in fact, so much evocative language – talk about the gospel, about Jesus Christ, about holiness, about the church – that it is easy to lose track of the overall thread of the letter and merely to pick out a few details. But if the details are worth having, the letter as a whole is even more so. It is not a miscellaneous collection of ‘helpful thoughts’. It is a particular letter written to a particular congregation at one point in its (very early) history. To believe, in fact, that Colossians is inspired Scripture is to believe that God intended to say just these things to this church – and in so doing to address, somehow, the church as a whole.” Tom Wright

Monday

“For by him, all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.” Colossians 1:16

Please read Colossians 1.

1. What strikes you about Paul's prayer?
2. What stands out to you about Paul's description of Christ?
3. In verses 21-23 Paul explains a significant change that the Colossian believers had undergone in their relationship with God. What is that change and how is it relevant for your life today?

Tuesday

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Colossians 2:6

Please read Colossians 2.

1. Paul explains the purpose of his ministry in verses 1-5. What is it?
2. What does Paul say about Christ in verses 6-17?
3. This chapter contains some excellent insights on how to live the Christian life.

What are some of those insights?

Ø **Digging Deeper** – Choose one of those insights (from question three), write it down on a 3x5 card and put it in a prominent place as a reminder throughout your day.

Wednesday

“So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ – that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.” Colossians 3:1-2

Please read Colossians 3.

1. Hebrews 12:2 reads: “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross...” How does Colossians 3 help us to fix our eyes on Jesus?
2. With what does Paul want us to clothe ourselves?
3. According to Paul, what blessings are available to those who walk closely with Christ?

Thursday

“Pray diligently. Stay alert, with your eyes wide open in gratitude.” Colossians 4:2

Please read Colossians 4.

1. What does Paul say about prayer in this chapter?
2. What does Paul say about our treatment of outsiders?
3. In this chapter Paul reveals some of his own circumstances. Where is Paul as he writes this letter, and what are his circumstances?
4. Now that you have read the first 4 chapters of Colossians, what would you say are the major themes of this letter? Which theme do you think will be the most helpful to you as you press on in your relationship with Christ?

Friday

“I am not ashamed of the gospel....” Romans 1:16

Please read Colossians 1:1-8.

1. As Americans, we pride ourselves in being independent and self-driven. Paul takes a different tact when he introduces himself in this letter. How does Paul describe himself? Where did Paul derive his sense of identity?
2. How does Paul describe and identify the Colossian believers?
3. What does Paul say about the gospel in these opening verses? How does he describe the gospel?
4. How is the gospel integral to our sense of identity as believers in Christ?

Saturday

Please read Colossians 1:1-8.

1. When you think about prayer, what comes to mind? What did Paul fill his prayers with?
2. What had he heard about the Colossians that he affirmed them for?
3. Why is he thankful to God? Does Paul take any credit for the spread of the gospel?
4. What is Paul's attitude about his calling or the “work” he is involved in?

Recommendation: Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters by Tom Wright



Homegroup Discussion

This section is designed for Home Groups and Small Groups who would like to discuss the Scrolls together. Begin by reading Colossians 1:1-8 and paragraph 2 in the opening introduction.

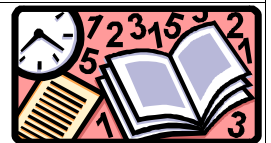
1. As Americans, we pride ourselves in being independent and self-driven. Paul takes a different tact when he introduces himself in this letter. How does Paul describe himself? Where did Paul derive his sense of identity?
2. How does Paul describe and identify the Colossian believers?
3. How does our sense of identity as Americans relate to what we are reading in Colossians 1?
4. What does Paul say about the gospel in these opening verses? How does he describe the gospel?
5. How is the gospel integral to our sense of identity as believers in Christ?
6. Take some time to pray for the spread of the gospel in our church, community and the world.

Family Time with Kids

Families can use these kid-friendly questions to help your children learn what you studied this week. Begin by reading.

1. Who wrote this letter? To whom was the letter written? What is an apostle, and who made Paul one?
2. When Paul and Timothy prayed, what two things did they thank God about for the Colossians?
3. What is the word of truth? Who told the Colossians about the gospel? What does this letter say about Epaphras? What news was included in the letter about the gospel?
4. How does the gospel spread? Who brought you the word of truth, the gospel? Have you taken it to someone else?
5. Using the concordance in the back of your Bible look up the word Spirit. Find Bible verses in the book of Acts to read about the Spirit. While reading the verses make a list of who the Spirit is, where he lives and what he does. Why is it important to have love in the Spirit?

Ø **Digging Deeper – Who can you share the word of truth with this week? Who will help you?**



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