

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, June 13th, 2010

Passage: Colossians 1:1-3

Memory Passage: Romans 8:1-2

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 22:1-21.** In vs. 3-4 what facts do you learn about Paul?
- (b) Paul was “educated under Gamaliel” (v. 3), who was a Pharisee and the most prominent rabbi of Jesus’ day. How did what Paul was taught (v. 3) affect his actions (vs. 4-5)?
- (c) In vs. 6ff Paul refers to his conversion experience. What changed in Paul’s understanding/knowledge of God during this time?
- (d) How does what you believe about God affect your life (notice I did not ask how it “should” affect your life, but how it “does” affect it)? Be specific. Are there times that your actions betray a lack of faith in or knowledge of God? What should be your response when this happens?
- (e) *Family:* **Read Acts 22:3-5 & Philippians 3:5-6.** Discuss Paul’s “resume.” What do you think the connection is between Paul’s strong Jewish upbringing and his persecution of Christians and Christ (Acts 22:4-5; 8)? Discuss your own “resume” (growing up in a Christian home & church, Christian parents & teaching, etc.). Does this pedigree affect your own relationship with Christ? Do you automatically become a Christian because of how you are raised?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Col. 1:1-2.** How does Paul identify himself in v. 1?
- (b) When you hear the word “apostle” what are the first two things that come to your mind? What does it say about the one identified as an apostle?
- (c) Read Acts 22:14-15; 22. If all you knew about Paul was what is taught in these 3 verses, what would be your disposition toward what he is about to say in the rest of his letter to the Colossians?
- (d) *Family:* Recognizing and obeying authority is an important lesson we all must learn. Name several authorities in your life. What are the consequences of disobeying these authorities? Paul speaks with great authority in Col. 1:1 (“an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God”). Since God is our ultimate authority, what are the consequences of disobeying Him?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Paul greets the Colossians as “faithful brethren in Christ.” What does the phrase “in Christ” mean to you? How would you explain it to a brand new believer?
- (b) **Read Romans 3:24; 6:11, 23; 8:1, 2, 39; 12:5; 15:17; 16:3.** These verses contain 9 of the 13 uses in the book of Romans of the phrase “in Christ.” As you read each one, write down what you learn about being “in Christ.”
- (c) Choose the “in Christ” verse from Romans listed above that strikes you as the most amazing and meditate on it for a few minutes. After considering what God has done on your behalf in Christ, write down 3 ways that this truth will affect how you live during the rest of this week.
- (d) *Family:* Think for a moment of what it is like to be standing in a room that is totally dark. Discuss what it feels like to be “in the dark.” Be very descriptive! Now consider some of the descriptions you used and apply them to being “in Christ.” (for example, to be in the dark is to see nothing but darkness, so to be in Christ is to see nothing but Christ). Take turns reading the 9 verses from Romans listed in question 3 and discuss them as you learn more about being “in Christ.”

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Colossians chapter 1.** We have been focusing on the first 2 verses of chapter 1 so let’s expand our vision a little. How would you describe the tone of this letter? If you were sitting in the church at Colossae and the reader took a short water break after reading chapter one, how would you feel about the reader returning for chapter 2?
- (b) As you read this chapter, what are the 3 main things you think Paul desires the Colossians to know?
- (c) How many times does Paul use the word “God” in this first chapter? How many times does he use the word “Jesus”? What does this tell you about Paul’s teaching? If someone tallied all the words you spoke in one day, would they find that words like “God” and “Jesus” were the main content of your words?

(d) *Family*: Read Colossians chapter 1. If you were in charge of designing a bill board to be put up on highway 67 that describes the content (or one of the main points) of chapter 1, what would you design? Make a sketch of your plan for the bill board using a full sheet of paper (Remember that a bill board must be read quickly by passing cars☺).

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Colossians 1:1-3** In 17 of the 22 New Testament epistles we find greetings that contain different forms of “grace and peace” (go ahead, read the first couple of verses in all of the epistles except Hebrews, James, 1 John, 3 John & Jude!). In Paul’s day a typical Greek greeting would contain a Greek word (*chairein, chairein*) that meant “greeting” (see Acts 15:23; 23:26; James 1:1). But Paul uses a similar but different Greek word (*caris, charis*) which is a promise of God’s grace being bestowed upon the reader. What kinds of blessing do you think Paul had in mind when he used this pregnant term “grace?”

(b) Use the concordance in your Bible to look up the word “grace.” Look up and read several of the verses and record what you learn about grace.

(c) The typical Hebrew greeting would be “Shalom” which means “peace.” This peace was not intended to call to mind “the lack of war or conflict,” but a holistic well-being and wholeness. Read Colossians 3:15. From whom does this peace come?

(d) *Family*: List and discuss the many ways that people greet each other. Which of these greetings do you think are sincere? Do any of them convey a promise of blessing to those being greeted? Read Paul’s greeting to the Colossians in vs. 1-3. How does his greeting differ from the average greeting given by people today? How can you begin to greet people with more of a focus on Christ?

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

Review what you have learned this week. Pay special attention to the applications that you wrote, those things that you desired to “do” in light of the teaching of Scripture, and evaluate whether or not you are endeavoring to apply them. Write down the most inspiring truth about Christ with which you came in contact this week and spend time meditating and praying on this truth.

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What’s in a Greeting?