

Colossians

2:1-23



RECAP of Colossians 1...

Paul begins his letter by assuring the Colossians that the Gospel they heard is the **REAL THING** and that **THEY** are the **REAL THING** too because of the faith and love that spring from the hope they have through the gospel.

- Was there anything that stood out to you in particular from the first study and sermon? If there was share it with the group.

From verse 15 onward, Paul launched into an amazing description of Jesus – a pretty impressive resume!

- Was there anything in that description of Jesus that you hadn't realized before?
- Or maybe there was something that you already knew but were excited about being reminded of?
- Perhaps there was something that you didn't quite understand?

Share these things with the group.

Read Colossians 2:1-5

In these opening verses Paul tells us the purpose of his ministry. How would you summarise his purpose in your own words?

If the Colossians are being persuaded that there is a “higher knowledge” and “wisdom” than what they have in simply knowing Christ through the gospel, Paul is keen to set things straight. In describing what we have in Christ he uses words like... **full riches** and **complete understanding**.

What particular characteristic of false teaching does Paul mention here? Do you agree that this is often the case?

Read Colossians 2:6-7

What does it mean to receive Christ Jesus **AS LORD**?



The KEY to Colossians...



"So then, just as you **received** Christ
Jesus as Lord, **continue** to live in him"

Colossians 2:6

How do these two verses clear up any confusion the Colossians might have about what to do once they have begun the Christian life?

Read Colossians 2:8-15

Verses 9 and **10** are another couple of key verses for Paul's argument in Colossians. What does Paul mean in these verses and what are the implications for us?

Does the irony of **verse 15** help you to understand Paul's comparison between the simple gospel message and false teaching that promises something far more "impressive"? If so, how?

Read Colossians 2:16-23

The false teachers who were troubling the Colossians were adding all sorts of things to the gospel in order for the Colossians to achieve a **greater fullness** or **level of spirituality** that a simple faith in Jesus could not (so they taught).

It seems from **verse 16** that it was false teaching based on Jewish law. Do you agree?

What does **verse 17** teach us about how we read and apply the Old Testament?

Are there ways we can make the mistake today of holding on to the shadows rather than the reality found in Christ?

What ways are we in danger of being tempted to **add** things to the simple gospel and faith in Jesus, in order to become **more spiritual** or to receive a **special fullness** as a Christians?

Don't forget... You have been given fullness in Christ!

