

Morning Overview

Lesson: *Colossians: Christ is Supreme*

Lesson Objective:

Today, and for the rest of the semester, we will take dives into some of Paul's letters to different churches. Paul's letter is written from the confines of a Roman prison where we left off last week. Paul's letter to the Colossian church has several elements, but we'll only focus on three of those. The first is that Christ is Supreme – the highest and best. The second is the work of redemption in Christ and the new reality for those who trust in that work. The last is that Christian identity reshapes how we treat others. The love of God in Christ, shown in his life, death, and resurrection, is given to us through the Holy Spirit!

Teaching Summary:

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- God has promised to always be with His people. He is with us through the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- The Church is growing, but also experiencing persecution. Because of the persecution, followers of Jesus scatter.
- The scattered Church takes the Good News and tells others about Jesus.
- Paul meets Epaphras in prison in Rome. Epaphras was the pastor of the church in Colossae.
- Paul writes the Colossian church to encourage them to continue to trust and follow Jesus.
- Paul tells the Colossians that Christ is supreme. Christ is God. He was there before creation, He created all things for and through Himself.
- Paul tells the Colossians that only through Christ can redemption be accomplished.
- Paul tells the Colossians that their new identity is in Christ – they are friends with God. They are made new in Christ. They are in Christ.
- Paul then encourages the Colossian church to act according to this new identity. The central part to this new identity is love of God shown in Christ. True, godly love is sacrificial love

Scripture: Colossians 1:15-23; 3:1-4, 12-17

Story: *The Gospel Story Bible*, Pages 280-281

Scripture Memory for March: Acts 17:26-27 (ESV)

God made *(point up for God)*

from one man *(hold up your index finger for the number one)*

every nation of mankind to live on *(sweep both arms out in front of you and to either side like a swimming breaststroke for the motion of every nation)*

all the face of the earth *(put your hand open in front of your face...facing your face and go around in a circle once. That is the motion for on the face of the earth)*

that they should seek *(for seek, put your hands above your eyes and look both left and right like you are searching for something)*

Him *(point up for Him)*

Craft: Christ is Supreme

Supplies: White cardstock with world, verse sticker, throne, crown, crayons/markers

Instructions: 1. Place verse sticker at top of cardstock

2. Glue throne to world

3. Place crown on top of throne

3. Place magnet on back



If child has already done craft first hour, have them work on a coloring sheet

Story

Transition

Boys and girls, today we learn about one of Paul's letters he wrote while in prison. Even though Paul was in prison, his letter was filled with thankfulness and joy for what he heard about the followers of Jesus in Colossae. Let's find out what Paul wrote in his letter...

The Church Is Growing

The Church was growing. The Bible tells us every day more and more people believed the Good News! They believed that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to rescue us from our sins and He rose from the dead! This was called the Good News. More and more people believed in Jesus and the Church was growing!

Followers of Jesus went to tell others about the Good News. The Good News was spreading far and wide. Some people, however, did not teach the right things. But the Apostles taught that good works were a result of believing the Good News.

Paul was in prison in Rome. He had friends come and visit him often. Then one day another Christian joined Paul in prison. His name was Epaphras. Epaphras had started a small church in the city of Colossae. Epaphras told Paul all about his church in Colossae. Paul decided he wanted to send the church at Colossae a letter. The people in Colossae were called Colossians. Paul would not be able to visit the church, but he wanted to write to encourage them.

Paul began his letter thanking God and praying for his friends in Colossae. Then Paul wanted Colossians to know something very important: Christ is supreme. Other words for *supreme* would be "*best*", "*ultimate*" or "*greatest*."

Christ is Supreme

Paul tells his Colossian friends that Jesus is God. Everything on earth that was created – lions, dandelions, apples, and caterpillars – "through and for Him." And not just everything on earth, everything in heaven, things that we can see and things that we cannot see, powerful kings and queens, kingdoms and countries. Jesus created all of it. And Jesus is who holds the whole creation together. Paul would tell his Colossian friends that Jesus is the head of the church. Jesus was the first one raised from death. In all things Jesus is most important.

Paul reminded the people who would read his letter about the Good News. "At one time you were separated from God. You were enemies with God because of the evil things you did were against God! But now Christ has brought you close to God. You are no longer God's enemies, but God's friends," Paul wrote. Because of sin, every person is separated from God and we are even enemies with God. Yikes!!! But through Jesus God decided to bring all things back to Himself again – that included Paul, the Colossian church, and you and me. In Jesus God was going to make everything good and right again. God would make peace with all creation through Jesus' death on the cross. Now that the Colossians were friends of God, God would work to make them holy, blameless (no wrong in you), and with no guilt.

The Good News is very important to hear and believe. Paul wanted his friends to continue believing the Good News and to trust in Jesus. Paul always wanted people to look to Jesus. In Jesus, we are made friends with God. We go to Jesus to tell us who we are. Paul said that people who follow Jesus are *hid* in Him. Paul was telling the Colossian church, and us too, that Jesus is where we find our friendship, love, and all things that are important!

But following Jesus means living a different way. Following Jesus means we are not to act, think, or speak in ways which do not honor Christ. Paul would tell his Colossian friends that since they are friends with God through Jesus, they are to act differently. The apostle tells them to have compassionate hearts, to be kind, humble, meek, and to have patience. To forgive just as each of us have been forgiven by God. But most importantly to put on love. Put on love? Like a jacket? Love is essential to be a follower of Jesus. It was because of God's love for us that Jesus came to die and rise for us. That kind of love is supreme. To act with that kind of love is what Paul encouraged his Colossian friends to show.

Questions for Review with Younger Children

Have children answer “yes” or “no.”

- The Church is growing – adding more and more people. (Yes)
- The Holy Spirit is growing the Church. (Yes)
- Epaphras was guarding Paul in prison. (No! Epaphras was a prisoner with Paul.)
- Paul wanted the Colossians to know Christ is supreme. (Yes)
- Paul told the Colossians that Christ created everything. (Yes)
- Paul told the Colossians that Christ is the right arm of the church. (No! Jesus is the head of the church.)
- Christ is the first person raised from death. (Yes!)
- Through Christ’s death and resurrection, we can be friends with God. (Yes)
- In Christ we are made new. (Yes)
- Paul tells the Colossians that in all things Jesus is the most important. (Yes)
- Paul tells the Colossians to put on love. (Yes)

Questions for Review with Older Children

- Name some of the people in our story today.
- Paul lists out several things for Christians to be (Colossians 3:12-14). I wonder what is the hardest one of these things to do? What is the easiest?
- What is the Good News?