

Colossians - Christ is Enough!

Week #5: Reconciliation

June 02, 2019

The prevailing conditions of the church in the first-century are alarmingly like our own. Self-centered philosophies, pluralistic beliefs in multiple gods, a deep preoccupation with our physical bodies, and an insatiable desire for knowledge easily gain an audience who are looking for answers to life's deepest questions.

Charles Swindoll correctly writes, "anyone who digs deeply into Paul's brief but powerful letter to the Colossians soon realizes that while it addressed specific problems of first-century Christians, its relevance easily bridges twenty centuries of history."¹

That this is true reflects the fact that the human condition is not changed by advances in technology and knowledge. At the core of our lives we, too, continue to ask deep questions of meaning and relevance - questions that modern technology and knowledge are not designed to answer. And as Christians, we are convinced that these questions *are* fully answered in Jesus Christ.

In Paul's letter to the Colossians, we will learn and be reminded that Jesus has life's answers.

Study Questions: *Being a minister - serving others.*

1. Read Colossians 1:24 - 2:5.
2. Pastor Ken offered four implications and challenges in his message this week:
 - i. We're all appointed by God to be ministers. Challenge: Do you like being a servant?
 - Where does serving others come easy for you? Where is it hard work?
 - How do others help make serving them a joy? In what ways are you making it easy for others to serve you joyfully?
 - ii. Suffering with others is perhaps the Master's greatest assignment. Challenge: Who around me is suffering and how can I walk with them?
 - Who needs you to help walk with them through their pain? Are you intimidated with this assignment? If so, pray for God's wisdom, courage and gentle love.
 - What do you hope for from others when you suffer?
 - iii. Sharing Jesus with others happens while we serve them. Challenge: Others don't care what I know until they know that I care.
 - What's the difference between telling someone about Jesus and caring for them in Jesus? Why do our actions almost always speak more loudly than our words?
 - How did Jesus model this principle ... what have you learned about your actions & your words?
 - iv. Serving others happens anytime, anywhere & for any reason. Challenge: Am I an eager servant ... always prepared to fill a need wherever my Master directs me?
 - What's the difference between wanting to do something and being required to?
 - What gets in the way of your eagerness to serve God? Be honest with yourself about this - it is a very important question in determining where you find yourself in your pilgrimage with Jesus, and what may lie before you as you journey.
3. Will you commit yourself to serving where you see a need, believing that God has pointed out the need to you for a reason? Will you promise your Master not to hand him an excuse, but believe that He is actually wanting to bring you great joy & meaning in the assignment he offers?

¹ Swindoll, Charles. Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary Vol 9. 2017, Tyndale House Publishers, p. 101.