

Colossians - Christ is Enough!

Week #3: Jesus is Supreme

May 12, 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: *Jesus is more than enough.*

1. Ken asked everyone on Sunday to open their musical collection and pick their favourite song.
 - What is your favourite song? Why do you like it so much ... is it the tune, the lyrics, the memories it invokes, the motivation it inspires?
 - What favourite songs do you want played at your funeral? Why?
2. Read Colossians 1:14-21.
 - Paul carefully teaches the Colossians that Jesus is completely sufficient for them - they need nothing else because Christ is Supreme.
 - What causes us to doubt sometimes that Jesus really is sufficient? Where have your struggles been regarding this truth?
 - What changes when we choose to believe that Christ is more than enough?
3. When we take control back from God because we don't believe He is enough, we often become frustrated, confused, overwhelmed and angry ... yet there's something about holding onto our autonomy that seduces us into believing that somehow we will find a way and reach safety.
 - Where do you see your friends being seduced today into finding safety without Jesus?
 - Why not begin this week by changing your language from "I am worried/concerned about", to "Jesus is enough for this". Some examples you might consider could be: plans & decisions; words & actions; relationships; financial pressure; health issues; priorities & passions; schedules & disruptions; thoughts & emotions.
4. Note that the message of this early hymn in Colossians is that Christ is the centre - the object and subject of everything - not you. To really embrace this, your faith in him cannot be vague hope, blind optimism or wishful thinking, but a confident expectation that He is working for the good in every situation, and that nothing is too big for Him.
 - This week, begin spending time reflecting on who Jesus is and what He *has* done, *is* doing and *will* do. Make *Christ* the centre of your praying (bringing your life's care confidently to him) and notice how your praying takes on a new dimension.

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