

# Colossians - Christ is Enough!

Week #2: Paul's Encouraging Prayer

May 05, 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."<sup>1</sup>

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 Enough.***

1. The Christians of Colossae were being challenged to look for more than Jesus in order to gain greater spiritual knowledge and experience.
  - Who are the people that challenge you and I today with the same argument?
    - outside God's Church?
    - inside God's Church?
2. Read Colossians 1:9-14.
  - Paul prays for these people boldly, specifically & confidently. Review again what the great Apostle prays for concerning them. Are you aware of someone praying such things for you, and are you praying such things for someone you know and love.
  - What do we tend to pray for instead? Do you wonder whether perhaps we are limiting ourselves or even asking God for the wrong things?
  - What *does* the Bible teach we are to specifically pray for? (Read John 15:1-17 to help answer this question - there are many other texts, but this is a good place to begin).
3. Prior to Pentecost on June 9<sup>th</sup>, use these weeks to pray boldly and confidently:
  - for knowledge - specifically for knowledge of God's will for yourself, your family, your church and the Christians of the Cowichan Valley. Ask God to reveal His plans for each of these, expecting Him to answer.
  - for God-honouring lives - specifically that you will know what pleases the Master as you read the Bible everyday and love others in His power and grace.
  - for strength - specifically that you will have an attitude of inner patience and would exhibit endurance. Pray that God will grant you and others the ability to hold up under trying circumstances and rejoice amid frustration and uncertainty.
4. If you are in a Life Group, commit as a group to pray for the above until Pentecost, and share with one another in your group each week how you are making out. Pray boldly, approaching God with confidence because you are asking for exactly what He desires for all His people.

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