

Colossians: Jesus The Messiah: Nothing More, Nothing Less

Study 2: What Compares With Jesus?

Read Colossians 1:1-8

1. List the things Paul says about the Colossians e.g. the ways he describes them.

a. What does this say about what God values in Christians?

b. Name two qualities in that list that stand out for you and say why.

Read Colossians 1:9-14

2. Verse 9 seems to contain one big prayer request and verses 10 to 12 list several consequences of that main request ("so that"). List the main request and then all of the outcomes from that.

3. Thinking about verses 1 to 14, how would you describe Paul's attitude to the Colossians?

4. What does this prayer (vv.9-14) indicate about what else God values in Christians?

5. How do you personally relate to what verses 12 to 14 say?

Read Colossians 1:15-23

6. Given what verse 15 to 20 say, complete this sentence using no more than five extra words:

“Jesus is _____”

7. Who, or what could compete with Jesus for our affection?

a. How come things do?

8. Adding to Question 5 above, how do you personally relate to what is said in vv. 21-23?

9. What is the significance of the “if” at the beginning of v.23?

Read Colossians 1:24-29

10. What is the mystery that had now been revealed? How would you explain that to someone who didn't understand it?

11. What do vv.24-29 reveal about why Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians?

12. In vv.28-29 what is Paul's life purpose?

a. What is his strategy?

b. In what ways is that strategy apparent in this letter?

c. Do you think Jesus had the same life-purpose and strategy? Explain your answer.

For us

Prayer

13. Praise: Look again at who vv.15-20 say Jesus is. Turn your reflections into a prayer of praise.

14. Thanks: Verse 12 to 14 talk of joyfully giving thanks for what God has done for us. Review your answers to Questions 5 and 8 and spend some time giving joyful thanks.

15. Intercession: For whom might you pray the prayer in vv.9-12? Do that now and maybe make it a regular practice.

Action

16. Are Paul's life-purpose and his strategy (Question 12) meant to be ours as well? Why or why not?

- a. If so, identify some specific ways you could put them into practice. If not, what is your life-purpose and strategy?