

5. Read Colossians 1:19-23. As with many New Testament passages, there is a three-fold description of the work of the gospel in a believer's life. There is a past sinful "old self" that is recognized ("once you were"), a present redeemed reality based on Christ's work not ours ("but now he has"), and an ongoing responsibility for the believer ("if you continue in your faith"). Take turns in sharing your own (short) testimony as a way of explaining the gospel using this past-present-ongoing model. Why was Christ's physical death necessary to reconcile us to God? (see Hebrews 9:11-28) How do you understand what Paul is teaching he writes that we will be presented without blemish and free from accusation "if" we continue in our faith? What practical steps can we take to encourage one another to continue in our faith, established and firm, not moving from the hope found in the gospel?

6. What personal needs has the Holy Spirit exposed during this study? How can we pray with you about those needs? Consider memorizing Colossians 1:15.



Sunday, September 15, 2024

**A Strong Foundation
4. God the Son
Colossians 1:13-23**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God, the Living Word, who became flesh through his miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. He came to show us God and perfect humanity. Through His life, death, and resurrection, we are reconciled to God. He lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for the sins of men on the cross as their substitution, thus satisfying divine justice and providing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended bodily into Heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where He, the only Mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own.

Five Facts About the Second Person of the Trinity:

1. He is _____

2. He is _____

3. He is _____

4. He is _____

5. He is _____

Study Guide

For the week of September 15, 2024

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Have you made any new friends lately? How did you meet them? What have you done to get to know one another better? How do we get to know God? How does our relationship with him grow? Read Colossians 1:15-23. What immediately stands out to you? Does anything in this passage particularly confuse you, encourage you or convict you?

2. Read Colossians 1:15. How would you answer someone who genuinely asked, "who is Jesus?" As the "image of God," Jesus is God's exact representation (Hebrews 1:3). What God is, Jesus is. What God contains, Jesus contains. What God has, Jesus has. What God does, Jesus does. In every way that God is God, Jesus' being exactly represents God's being. How does Jesus' own teaching in John 5:16-23, 26; 8:49-59; 12:49-50; 16:25-28; 17:20-24 back that claim up? What evidence of Christ's deity do you see in the gospel records of His life? How would you describe the relationship between Jesus and God the Father?

3. Read Colossians 1:16-17 and Philippians 2:6-8. How does seeing Christ as the creator and sustainer help us fully understand the incredible humility of Jesus in his incarnation and crucifixion?

4. Read Colossians 1:18. Jesus as the head of the church is a theology we strongly hold to and maintain. So how should Jesus' headship of The Church work out practically in the context of a local church? These verses deal so clearly with the absolute supremacy of Jesus. Why do you think the supremacy of Jesus is such an important theme throughout the New Testament? As you consider the above questions and verses, do you think that your view of Jesus is full and complete? What is the result in our thoughts, priorities, behaviors and relationships when we follow Christ as the pre-eminent very image of God?