House Groups | Colossians

Questions for Self-Study

What does the passage say? Observe the facts. Who is speaking? What is happening? What are the key words, themes, or repeated ideas?
What does it mean? Interpret the message. What was the author communicating to the original audience? What does this teach about God, people, sin, faith, or salvation?
How does this apply to my life? Personalize the truth. Is there a command to obey, a promise to trust, a warning to heed, or an example to follow? What should change in my thinking or behavior?
How should I respond? Take action. What specific step will I take today? How can I pray based on what I learned?

Colossians 1: Christ is God

- Paul thanks God for the Colossians' faith, hope, and love, and how the gospel has borne fruit among them (1:3-6). What does your spiritual foundation look like, and how are you seeing the gospel bear fruit in your life?
- Paul prays that the Colossians will live worthily of the Lord, bearing fruit and joyfully giving thanks for their rescue from darkness (1:9-14). How does understanding your rescue from darkness shape your gratitude and daily choices?
- In the Christ hymn, Paul proclaims Christ's supremacy over creation (1:15-17) and the church (1:18-20). How does Christ as "the image of the invisible God" (1:15) deepen your understanding of who Jesus is?
- Christ is not only exalted but also endured extreme suffering, and he canceled the record of sins through the cross (2:14-15). How does Christ's suffering victory change the way you view your own struggles?

Colossians 2: Christ is Head of the Church

- Paul teaches that believers are to live in Christ rather than be led astray by empty thinking (2:6-10). What "empty thinking" or worldly patterns tempt you to drift from Christ's sufficiency?
- Paul warns against the "empty deceit" of "human tradition" and false teachers who distract from Christ's supremacy (2:8, 16-23). How do you discern between legitimate spiritual practices and those that distract from Christ?
- Believers have been spiritually circumcised, buried, and raised with Christ, and their sins and evil powers have been conquered through his cross (2:11-15). What does it mean practically that you've been raised with Christ?
- Christ himself embodies "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (2:3). When you face decisions or questions, how do you turn to Christ rather than seeking answers elsewhere?

Colossians 3: Union with Christ

- Believers have been buried with Christ, resurrected with Christ, and given a whole new self (2:12-13; 3:1, 10). How should this new identity reshape the way you relate to your family, work, and community?
- Paul instructs believers to put off the old self and put on the new, with specific responsibilities for wives and husbands, children and parents, and servants and masters (3:5-4:1). Which of these relational instructions most challenges your current way of living?
- Believers are reminded that God has "made you alive together with him" and they are to put on "the new self ... renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator" (2:13; 3:10). What does renewal in God's image look like in your specific relationships?
- How does living a life of "resilient gospel-centrality," bearing fruit through the gospel and growing in maturity in the same way you received the gospel (1:6; 1:23; 2:6-7), transform the way you approach spiritual growth?

Colossians 4: Living Out New Life

- Paul instructs the Colossians on their attitude towards outsiders and opponents (4:5-6). How does your witness to those outside the faith reflect Christ's supremacy?
- Paul emphasizes his duty to declare the mystery now revealed in Christ so as to present everyone mature in him (1:25-2:5). What does spiritual maturity in Christ look like, and where do you sense God calling you to grow?
- Christians walk with Christ mindful of his forgiving grace which pardons as well as his restoring grace which empowers. How are both dimensions of grace-forgiveness and empowerment-active in your spiritual life right now?
- Paul ends the letter with personal greetings (4:7-18). How can you move from studying Colossians to actively living out its themes of Christ's supremacy and transformed living in your relationships and communities?

Bonus Closing Question for the Entire Book of Colossians

Colossians divides neatly into two halves, with major theological argumentation in chapters 1-2 and practical and ethical implications in chapters 3-4. How has understanding Christ's supremacy and your union with him in the first half of the letter equipped you to live differently in the second half-and what is one specific area where you sense Christ calling you to align your daily choices with your new identity?