

## Colossians Devotion

### Day 1 - Colossians Devotion Summary

Today we get to start a 28 day journey through Colossians. Through this daily devotional, we will be looking at the book of Colossians through the lens of the gospel that has been made known to us through Jesus Christ.

With that we will delve into different facets of this epistle, its relevance for early Christians and how that same relevance speaks to us today. But first a bit of background.

Colossians is one of the epistles (or letters) written to early Christians by the apostles. These letters were written to encourage believers to not stray from the foundation of salvation afforded them in Jesus as the Christ.

Most scholars agree that Colossians was written by Paul while he was in prison in Rome. This fact alone gives us credibility in its content. It is evidence of how truth goes beyond prison walls and personal circumstances. We hold this ancient text before us today.

We often struggle to read the Bible because we read it through the lens of how we should behave, and to put it bluntly, we're not great at behaving consistently.

But let's remove that lens and put on this one. The purpose of Colossians is not to for us to reach God's standards, but to embrace the truth that God has reached down to us and met His own standard through Christ. Through that lens we will be transformed as we try to take in the measure of how loved we are by God.

The reason for Paul's letter will become evident as we read through it. The Christians in Colossae were being led astray by the cultural practices of mysticism. They were also falling back into traditional religion with its rules and regulations. They were trusting in things that had no effect on their salvation.

They were not walking in the completed work of the gospel that saved them. So, Paul takes great effort to pull them back to reality.

I heard Dr Tim Keller say one time that Jesus was not a teacher who taught us how to save ourselves, He was the Savior. That's a brilliant way to explain what Paul is trying to tell the Colossians. And us.

And if we're honest we will see similarities to these early Christians. We all know it is easier to make God in our image than it is to relinquish to the reality that He is making us into His image. It is easier to follow rules than it is to keep ourselves in front of the mirror of His truth.

Like the Colossians we have the temptation of straying from the truth of our provision in Christ. We often put our "truth" in front of ourselves and others. They become useless exercises that have no value to the treasure provided us in the gospel.

Colossians take time to pull us back into our purpose as believers. We are caught up in His ancient promise of redemption. We are dependent on God and He provides for His people.

When we recognize that we need God, I just have to think God says .... 'Now that's something I can work with'. The world doesn't need a church that has it all together, it needs a church being held together through Christ our Lord. This book will help us be it.