

09 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Colossians – week 1

 Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever had to correct a false teaching that a friend or family member believed?
2. Who started the church in Colossae? (**Epaphras; see Colossians 1:7**).
3. What was the main concern in the church of Colossae? (**False teachings; see Colossians 2:16 and 18**).
4. List three false teachings that threatened the church in Colossians 2:16 and 18? (**Influence of Judaism; Asceticism and angel worship**).

 Let's go deeper

5. How does Paul begin his letter in Colossians 1:1? (**Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus**).
6. How can we know God's will for our lives? (**God's will is revealed in His Word and through the life of Jesus Christ**).
7. What word does Paul use to remind the believers of their identity in Christ? (**Saints**).
8. How does Paul remind the believers of the Father heart of God in verse 2? (**Paul writes; Grace to you and peace from God the Father**).

 Let's apply this

**9. Four truths that will help you grow this year:**

1. Who will you learn from this year?
2. Knowing God's will for your life.
3. Knowing your identity in Christ.
4. Knowing the Father heart of God.

As you read and study the scriptures, ask and allow Holy Spirit to speak to you and to reveal God's Word to you in each of these four points.

**SUMMARY:**

- **Colossians: Week 1**

Colossae, was a city in Phrygia, in the Roman province of Asia. Colossae was located on the Lycus river just over 161km east of Ephesus.

**How did the church start?**

Epaphras travelled to Ephesus and responded to Paul's proclamation of the gospel (see Acts 19:10). Epaphras returned to his hometown and began sharing the good news of Jesus Christ, which resulted in the birth of the Colossian church (see Col.1:7). At the time of this writing, Epaphras was with Paul in Rome and has likely shared the sad news that there were false teachings threatening the church (see Col.4:12). Paul writes this letter to respond to the false teachings.

**What was the false teaching?**

**Read:** Colossians 2:16 and 18

1. A strong influence of Judaism with many Jewish elements.
2. Asceticism is a religious practice that deny the pleasures of the world so the person can live a life of extreme self-denial to concentrate on their spiritual life.
3. A focus of the false teaching was the tendency to call on angels for help and protection from evil spirits. He emphasizes the supremacy of Christ over all powers.

**Read:** Colossians 1:1 – 2.

**1. Who will you learn from this year?**

**v.1;** Paul begins by introducing and establishing himself as an apostle of Jesus Christ.

**Apostello** – this word was used for Jesus' twelve apostles – see Luke 9:2.

**Read:** Acts 1:20 and 22; qualifications for the office of an apostle.

**Apostolos** – this word Paul used in Colossians 1:1.

**Read:** Ephesians 4:11 – 16; qualifications for the gift of an apostle.

**2. To grow you need to know God's will for you**

God's will is revealed in His Word, and God's will is revealed through Jesus Christ. If you walk closely with the Lord and desire His will, He will reveal it to you; **Ps.37:4**.

**3. To grow you need to know your identity in Christ**

Paul reminds the believers of their God given identity as saints (God's holy people) that was given and established by God in Gen.2; before sin and rebellion entered the world in Gen.3. Saint is who a believer is. Sin comes to an end the moment a believer dies, and see Jesus face to face in perfect holiness. A believer's eternal status and identity is that of a saint. This identity is received by Christ not achieved.

**4. To grow you need to know the Father heart of God**

Paul writes to the believers that there is grace and peace for them from God the Father. An encouragement and invitation to run to God and not from God.