**Colossians Family Worship Devotions – Week 2**

We have worked through most of chapter one last week. What are some things that stood out to you from last week? Discuss this with your family.

This week we will be working through chapter two. Again, there are four devotionals. Each devotional has a scripture reading, as well as some thoughts, questions, song suggestions, and prayer ideas. I pray that your family is strengthened as you work through the devotionals this week.

**Day 1: Suffering for Jesus**

***Read Colossians 1:24-2:5***

*“Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ’s sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed”* (1 Peter 4:12-13)

Opposition, hardship and suffering is something that we try to avoid in our life. However, as a Christian we should not be surprised when such times come. It is the result of living for Jesus amid a fallen world (cf. Proverbs 29:27; John 15:18; 17:14; 1 John 3:13).

The way of the world is counter to the way of Christ. To walk in obedience to Jesus will therefore mean that we are walking against the flow. If we aren’t experiencing a measure of opposition, which path are we following?

Mind you, we need to make sure that we are suffering for Jesus and what is right, and not suffering because of unrighteousness. Paul was in prison not because he was a murderer, but because he was preaching the gospel and walking in obedience to Jesus.

**Questions**

* What does it mean to suffer for Jesus?
* What was the mission that Paul was given by God? (vv. 25-28)
* Why was he willing to suffer for the sake of carrying out this mission? (cf. 2:1-5)
* How was Paul able to labour and endure the suffering that came as a result of living out His mission? (v. 29)
* As Paul endured the suffering for Jesus, he rejoiced (v. 24). How can we rejoice when we are suffering for Jesus?

**Suggested Songs**

* Let Your Kingdom Come - <https://youtu.be/9kjMaYqhQnw>
* Lift High the Name of Jesus - <https://youtu.be/ozK3yPmkOO0>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray for those who are suffering for Jesus as they stand for God in obedience to His Word.
* Pray for the persecuted countries who suffer as Christians who desire to proclaim the gospel.

**Day 2: Walk In Him**

***Read Colossians 2:6-7***

We are in the second chapter of this letter, and Paul has yet to give a command…until now. He instructs the believers in Colossae, and by extension all believers, “Walk in Him [ie. Jesus]”.

In the bible, the imagery of walking refers to the daily activity of a person. All that we do in life we are to do in Jesus. We are to walk in the way he walk, as well as in the way we received Him. The words of these two verses help us to understand what that means.

**Questions**

* In verse 6, Paul instructs us that just as we received Jesus Christ the Lord, we are to walk in Him. The name “Jesus” and title “Christ” refers to his saving work. What does it mean for Jesus to be our savior? How should that impact the way we live our life?
* The title “Lord” refers to his authority as king. What does it mean for Jesus to be our Lord? How should that impact the way we live our life?

* Paul uses four word pictures to further describe our walk – “rooted”, “built up”, “established” and “abounding”. The first word gives us the picture of a tree whose roots are firmly rooted in the soil. The second word gives us the picture of a house being built up which then reflects what it was meant to be. The third word gives us the picture of a foundation that has been laid under a house which gives support to the building. The final word gives us a picture of something that is overflowing like a river flooding its banks. How do each image help us greater understand what our walk is to look like?

**Suggested Songs**

* How Firm a Foundation - <https://youtu.be/cY6k2QhdCn0>
* Living for Jesus - <https://youtu.be/uMmH1UYkNUw>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray that God will help you understand what it means that Jesus is Lord and Savior so that you may walk accordingly.
* Pray that God will continue to show you all that Jesus has done so that you may abound in thanksgiving.

**Day 3: Complete in Jesus**

Have you ever seen a Venus flytrap? It secrets nectar which attracts the fly to land in its open mouth. When it lands, it triggers the plant, and the plant wraps its mouth around the fly. The fly is trapped and slowly dies.

False teaching is like a Venus flytrap. It looks attractive until we are consumed and destroyed by it. The church in Colossae was dealing with teaching which in essence taught that Jesus was merely a spiritual being and His work needed to be supplemented by other things.

Here Paul counters that teaching by affirming Jesus’ humanity and deity (v. 9) and the completeness of His work on our behalf (vv. 12-15).

***Read Colossians 2:8-15***

**Questions**

* Those who are in Christ have been made complete by Him. We have a complete circumcision of heart (v. 11), a complete resurrection from death to life (v. 12), a complete forgiveness (vv. 13-14) and a complete victory (v. 15). Of these four works, which one are you most grateful for?
* How should the fact that we are complete in Christ govern the way we live our life?
* In Ezekiel we read of a stony heart that is insensitive to the things of God (Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:26-27). God has given us a new heart which is governed by the desire to obey Him. Have you come to experience this heart change? Tell others in your family how Jesus changed your life.
* We are fully forgiven in Christ. How does this truth influence the way you live your life?
* We have final victory over Satan. How does this truth influence the way your life today?

**Suggested Songs**

* It was Finished - <https://youtu.be/PUGQNYm44hk>
* Totally God, Totally Man – <https://youtu.be/viM6FFZULjk>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Pray that God will show you the measure of forgiveness you have received through Jesus.
* Pray that God will reinforce in your mind and heart the sufficiency of Jesus and His work on your behalf.

**Day 4: Walking Unburdened**

***Read Colossians 2:16-23***

When you don’t believe that Jesus and His saving work is enough, you will go and try to fill up what is lacking. You will attempt to earn your own righteousness through various means, such as:

* Submitting to religious activities and man-made traditions (vv. 16, 20-21)
* Elevating spiritual experiences (v. 18)
* Avoiding certain foods and blessings such as marriage (v. 16, 18, 21)

These actions are done all in attempts to be made more pleasing and acceptable to God. What we need to remember though is that in Jesus we are complete. There is no need to earn our own righteousness, or fill up what we think is lacking, because perfect righteousness is already ours in Jesus.

**Questions**

* The false teachers were passing judgement on the Christians in Colossae for not following the Jewish religious system. What is Paul’s response to this? What is his reason? (vv. 16-17)
* The false teachers were dictating who was in and out of the faith based on one’s experiences and outward righteousness. Why is this a bad way of determining one’s relationship to God? (vv. 18-19)
* The false teachers were forcing themselves to avoid certain things which they deemed were bad. Paul says that though outwardly this may look wise, inwardly it has no value of stopping the indulgence of the flesh. What is the only way we can overcome sin?

**Suggested Songs**

* In Christ Alone - <https://youtu.be/16KYvfIc2bE>
* Blessed Assurance - <https://youtu.be/LIHwnj8Bbvw>

**Prayer Ideas**

* Thank God that your righteousness is found in Jesus and not religious activities.