

Getting To Know You

1. What is something in your life that has improved/changed as a result of the situation we have been in?
2. What is one of the first things that you are going to do when restrictions are lifted or over? Explain.
3. Charles Swindoll said, "Yet Paul didn't interpret his two-year hiatus as a tragic setback to his ministry. Paul didn't sit around staring at a sundial or twiddling his thumbs. During that forced furlough from the mission field, the apostle Paul was able to devote time to a few writing projects that must have been on his mind for some time, including a handful of writings the scholars call the "Prison Epistles." Paul didn't lament his immobility or fret over his confined circumstances. Instead, he took the opportunity to build up the body of Christ through a ministry of teaching and writing." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
4. C.S. Lewis said, "God knows our situation; He will not judge us as if we had no difficulties to overcome. What matters is the sincerity and perseverance of our will to overcome them." Thoughts? Agree? Disagree?
5. Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

Digging Deeper

1. What do we know about Colossae? Where is it located? What was the culture? Had Paul been there? Why is Paul writing to them? What is the theme or purpose of the letter? How will Paul address pluralism and syncretism? Any similarities between Colossae and us today? Explain.
2. Where was Paul when he is writing the letter to Colossae? What would you have done if you were in Paul's shoes? How is what Paul was going through similar to what we have/are experiencing at some level? Did he allow the situation to prevent him from doing what God had called him to do? Explain.

What are some wins you experienced recently? How could you use these unprecedented times to claim some wins in your relationships? Family? Church? Business? Personally? Professionally? Spiritually?

How is Jesus greater than _____? Is there anything that Jesus is not greater than? Do you ever think or behave in a way that says otherwise? Explain.

3. What language does Paul use to identify the Church at Colossae? Positionally who do they belong to? Relationally how are they connected? What salutation is given? How does this include both Greek and Jew? How does Jesus transform us? Our relationships? Culture? Why is the Church (all believers) paramount in our lives? How should this form and shape our understanding? How does this apply to us as believers?

4. How did Paul learn about this church? What has Paul been doing since hearing about them? How often do you pray for people you don't even know or at least have never met? What is Paul modeling for them? Us? Who do you need to be praying for? How encouraging is it to know that others are praying for you? How can you use this season to be more intentional in your prayer life? Take time this week to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world.

5. Faith, Love, Hope. How does Paul use these three to encourage the Church at Colossae? Who is are faith in? Who are we to have love for? Where is our hope? How important are these for our spiritual maturity and walk with God? How does Paul use them to lay a foundation to address the issue that Colossae is facing?

Growing Closer

1. Who is someone you shared the gospel with this week?
2. What have you been reading in your quiet times?
3. What has God been teaching you?