

# **GROWTH + GROUPS**

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

## **Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 02.06.2022**

### **COMPLETE IN CHRIST – Colossians 2:1-10**

#### Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Paul begins by saying that he was 'contending' hard for those in Colossae as well as those in Laodicea and all who had not met him personally. These were people that Paul had never personally met, yet his heart was burdened for them. The word 'contend' speaks of a struggle or contest. It was used to describe the assembly of the Greeks at their Olympic games. Paul had a great concern for the Christians of Colossae because he had never seen them. Paul wanted them to let the love of Christ so control their lives that they would also be drawn closer together as Christians. Today the only way that Christians will be drawn closer and have a real love for each other is to love one another in the same way. Christians must choose to let the love of Christ take control of their lives if they are going to love others. That is what makes it possible for Christians to become one in Christ. Let's get into our study...

1. What stood out to you from Pastor Daniels sermon?
2. Have you ever had to "contend or fight for something important? What was it?
3. Share some things that you feel are important to fight for in life, give examples...

#### Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

#### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 2:1-5**

Paul had just finished teaching on the person and work of Christ. He reminded the church that Christ is the one who reconciled them when they were enemies and hostile to God. Paul pointed to himself as an example of someone who was once an enemy and was then reconciled to God through Christ, so that he could be a minister of the power of the gospel.

1. What was Paul's struggle? Why was this a unique struggle in Paul's ministry?
2. What do these verses say Paul wanted for the people of Colossae and Laodicea (vv. 2-3)?
3. Paul wanted to encourage the believers in Colossae and Laodicea. Why is it so important that we encourage one another, esp., in these trying times? (Read 1 Jn. 4:7-9, 1 Cor., 16:14 and 1 Peter 4:8-11)
4. To whom are the treasures of spiritual wisdom hid and to whom are they revealed? How can we do more digging for this wisdom and knowledge? (Note the Gnostics claimed they had hidden knowledge, but denied the deity and personhood of Christ.)

#### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**

1. What was the danger facing the Colossians?
2. Who was Paul worried would delude them with persuasive arguments? Why did the nature of Paul's relationship with the church intensify this problem? (Had they ever met Paul?)

## **BREAKTHROUGH!** in 2022

3. What do you think being “built up or established” looks like in a person’s life (v. 7)?
4. What are the practical things you do to remain established (“grow”) in Christ?

Paul’s exhortations for the Colossians focused on Jesus Christ. Paul wanted the leaders to persevere in their walks with Christ. He uses language of a building, “established” and “built up” suggests a structure that is on solid footing. The solid footing is Jesus Christ. The way to become established was through following instructions and trusting the good teaching that had been imparted to them. This teaching likely came from people in Ephesus who spread the gospel to Colossae and helped establish a church. In Acts we see Paul exhorting the leaders of Ephesus, possibly some of the leaders who helped start the church in Colossae.

### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 2:8-10**

1. What are some of the “vain philosophies” and “traditions of men” that are trying to take us captive today? (on TV, False Teachers, Cancel Culture, etc.)
2. What will be the result of following deceptive philosophies and man-made traditions? What do we do as believers to ensure that we are not led astray?
3. Explain what it means that “in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.” How is Jesus different than any other religious leader who ever lived?
4. How are we “made complete” in Christ?

#### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**How exactly did Paul contend for these believers? Through prayer. Even though he had never met them in person, he knew that he could still have an impact on their lives by praying for them. The word prayer simply means to ask. Jesus Christ has all power in heaven and on earth. We as His children have access to the Father 24/7 and we can “ask in His name!” Samuel Chadwick said *“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayer-less studies, prayer-less work, and prayer-less religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but trembles when we pray.”***

1. What are some practical ways that we can “contend” for our families, marriages, values and for the Faith?
2. Is there one person that you could commit yourself to be diligent about their relational and spiritual progress and help them grow? (What are some ways you can “contend” for them?)\
3. Who is an encourager in your life? Thank God for them and the wonderful gift of encouragement.

**PRAYER – Lord, thank you for the truth of Your Word. Thank you for salvation and the free nature of such a glorious gift. Thank You that salvation not only means forgiveness of sins, but also a permanent marking of the Holy Spirit and identification as Your sons and daughters. May we remain steadfast in the truth when we face the opposition of false beliefs or practices and continue to grow deep in Christ.**

*“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;” (Col. 2:9-10).*