

WEEKLY STUDY GUIDE

WEEK 3 - THE STRUGGLE

COLOSSIANS JOURNAL: Remind everyone to bring their journal to group. Reread the Intro to the series on page 8.

ICEBREAKER: Share a time in your life that was worth all the struggle, hardship and hard work to get there.

CONTEXT: In Colossians 1:24-2:5, Paul speaks of his sufferings for the church, revealing the mystery of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." He encourages believers to rejoice in their struggles, as they serve a missional purpose and lead to maturity in Christ. Colossians aim is to deepen our understanding and desire to surrender to the reality of Christ's impact on every aspect of our lives.

BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

OVERVIEW: Watch this 9 minute video from the Bible Project as a group or for individual study. (It is a little long so you may need to divide it into sections.)

[!\[\]\(17413706fd4997a1a4bdf85c6864eee1_img.jpg\) Book of Colossians Summary: A Com...](#)

SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:24-2:5

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and

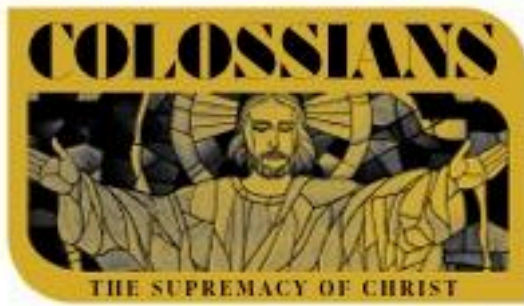
generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

2 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. 4 I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. 5 For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

STARTER QUESTIONS

What is one thing that stood out to you from the sermon over the weekend and why do you think God wants you to remember this truth?

What does this passage (Colossians 1:24-2:5) teach us about God, who He is, and His character?



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Ephesians 2:10 out loud. Pastor Brad opened with this verse and challenged us with this quote, "God didn't save you to sit, he saved you to work!" What is your honest, internal response to this quote?

Paul's suffering was a direct result of doing Gospel work and serving the Church. How have you or someone you know suffered or been through difficult times doing Gospel work?

What does Paul mean when he says he rejoices in his sufferings for the sake of the church?

In chapter 2 verses 1-3, Paul wants his struggles to encourage believers. How has God used someone's struggles to encourage you to keep the faith? Or how have you seen God use your struggles in faith to encourage others in their walk with Jesus?

Our All To Him Discipleship Journey has emphasized our church Conviction Statements. This week Pastor Brad highlighted our conviction "We are all in full time ministry!"

What ministry is God calling you to be a part of in our church and community? What keeps you from obeying Him?

What is the significance of "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27)?

PRAYER

*For a deeper and more responsive prayer time, separate into a men's group and a women's group.

Share praises, answered prayers and prayer requests.

Thank God for the mystery revealed through Christ, who lives in us and gives us hope and glory.

God, help us to rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that they serve a greater purpose in Your kingdom.

This community prayer from our Colossians Journal (pg. 12) is to be prayed over your group or in unison as a group.

Our prayer is that we would be people filled with the knowledge of God, strengthened by the power of God, and marked by the joy of God that we might live lives worthy and pleasing to Him. Amen!

B.L.E.S.S. UPDATE:

Review the BLESS principles and ask if anyone has an update to share.

Begin with prayer

Listen to their story

Eat with them

Serve them

Share your story and the story of Jesus