



# Leader

8/4 - Colossians 1:1-2;15-20

## LOVE

**A new commandment I give to you, that you love *one another*... (John 13:34)**

- *Internal*: How was your week...anything new? How was your walk with the Lord this week?
- *External*: Is there any individual or family who is struggling or needs encouragement from us?

## TRUTH

**Let the word of God dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing *one another*... (Col. 3:16)**

1. When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what most resonated with you?

[Dialogue]

2. Let's read our primary text. In the opening verses Paul refers to himself as an Apostle. Is he an Apostle? How so?

Paul asserts himself as an authoritative figure in these opening verses. He makes clear, no man granted him apostleship, rather it was "by the will of God." He was not simply a messenger but a representative of the One he met on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9). It is here, Jesus set Paul apart for missionary service by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is important that Paul's voice is recognized as authoritative due to the false philosophies swirling around the Colossian church.

3. Why was Paul writing to the Colossians? What was he concerned with? What heresies were present in Colossae?

**There were many diverse elements of heresy approaching the Colossian church:**

- **Denial of the sufficiency of Christ** - superior knowledge beyond Jesus was necessary for salvation
  - **Judaistic Legalism** - certain ceremonial elements such as circumcision were required for salvation
  - **Angel worship** - angels were believed to aid in attaining salvation
  - **Ascetism** - rigid denial of self and harsh treatment of the body
4. Of the heresies discussed, which are present in our culture today? Briefly, how would you speak to each of these false beliefs from a Christian worldview? [Apologetics Practice]
    - **Denial of the sufficiency of Christ** - Christ is the knowledge necessary for salvation. To know Christ and have a relationship with Him is to know salvation.
    - **Judaistic Legalism** - Grace is how we are saved, this comes through the conduit of faith, made possible by the work of Christ (Eph 2:8). No other supplemental ceremonial act is required.
    - **Angel worship** - The Bible does not prescribe the worship of Angels. Angels are created beings and not to be treated as objects of worship.
    - **Ascetism** - Eastern religions appeal to a type of harshness towards the body due to the underlying belief that the body/flesh is of little to no importance, but Christians are not to act in this way. We are to discipline ourselves and our bodies because we understand that our bodies are very much connected to our spirit. The Bible teaches us that our bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit.

5. We will spend more time on this text in a later guide (have no fear), but when you read verses 15-20, which statement about Jesus most moves you?

[Dialogue]

6. How does this passage of Scripture capture the theme or main idea of the book of Colossians? Can you find a thesis statement in these verses?

Christ is preeminent. He is in all things and above all things.

7. Any other thoughts you would like to share before we wrap up this text?

[Dialogue]

## GREAT COMMISSION

**Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (Matt. 28:19-20)**

- Did you disciple your family well this week? Is it apparent to others that Jesus the reason for your hope in your daily activity? Would anyone like to share the gospel with the group?

## CONFESSION/PRAYER/REPENTANCE

**But exhort *one another* every day, as long as it is called "today,"... (Heb. 3:12-14)**

- Confession is agreeing with God about our sin according to the Scriptures. Is there anything you want to confess before the group? [*apathy, idolatry, selfishness, jealousy, anger, envy*]  
- Let's pray, asking God to help us apply His word to our lives.

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Sources:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary
- The McArthur Commentary Series (Colossians and Philemon).
- Christ-Centered Exposition (Colossians and Philemon). Pace, Akin.