

# COLOSSIANS: JESUS+ \_\_\_\_\_

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH OF COLOSSE

## Part 1: Equations

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### Living with an equation:

A + B = \_\_\_\_\_  
Me + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ + Jesus = \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus + \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
Jesus + nothing.

### Important Note

The Book of Colossians is a letter. If someone sent you a personal letter, you would probably read it.

### The Colossians Challenge

Read the whole book of Colossians every week, out loud with someone, for the length of the series.

### Colossians 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,  
<sup>2</sup>To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:

*Colosse*: a convergent city in southern Turkey

*Bellingham*: a convergent city in Northwest Washington

<sup>2b</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father. <sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

**Truth:** The good news of Jesus is bearing fruit and growing.

<sup>7</sup> You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

**Application:** Someone told you, so you get to tell someone else.

### The Epaphras Challenge

Verbally invite five people who do not know Jesus to come to Easter weekend with you.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. <sup>10</sup> And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.

**My prayer for CTK is that God would fill us with knowledge of his will...**

**So that we could...**

- 1) Live a life worthy of the Lord
- 2) Please him in every way
- 3) Bear good fruit
- 4) Grow in the knowledge of Jesus
- 5) Be strong in him and him alone
- 6) Develop patience
- 7) Develop gratitude
- 8) Understand that we are qualified by the Father, not by our human effort

<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### **Our Colossians Prayer**

Jesus, would you release us from our “should,”  
our “ought to,” and our attachments.  
We want to live like Jesus is enough.

We want Jesus to be all we need, because he is all we have.

### **Next Steps**

**The Colossians Challenge:** Before the end of today, decide where and with whom you will read through Colossians each week. Set a time and place.

**The Epaphras Challenge:** This week start making a list of 5 people who don't know Jesus that you will invite in person to Easter over the next few weeks.

### **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Did you enjoy math in school? Why or why not?
- 2) Which of the equations best describes your current life, and what would you put in the blanks?
- 3) When was the last time you verbally shared with another person about Jesus? What fears do you have about sharing?
- 4) What are some spiritual “shoulds” or “ought to’s” that you do out of a sense of duty? What needs to happen to allow them to become joys instead of burdens?
- 5) How will you make Jesus the focal point of Easter this year?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?