August 3, 2014 Colossians 1:1-8

**A True Message**

1. Colossae was crossroad to a myriad of different beliefs and teachings.
2. When you have faith in Jesus Christ, love of others is nonnegotiable.

*Because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love you have for God’s people.* **Colossians 1:4**

1. Our hope comes from knowing the truth of God’s grace through Jesus Christ.

*The faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard the true message of the gospel that has come to you.* **Colossians 1:5**

1. The truth of Jesus Christ can be applied to all contexts and give hope in all situations.

*In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world.* **Colossians 1:6**

Meditate

What are some spiritual beliefs that you put your faith in which are not a part of our Christian faith?

How has your faith been in action in the love of other this week?

How do you separate your faith from the need to love other people?

Does your hope come from the truth of God’s grace? Why or why not?

Where is a situation where you can share the hope that you have in Jesus?

*Lord Jesus, I praise you for the hope I have in you. I see that my love for you is the catalyst to love others, not just a get out of hell free card. I will share this message and make you famous, because you are worthy of all honor and praise. In Jesus’ name, amen.*

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday John 8:21-30**
* **Tuesday John 14:5-14**
* **Wednesday John 16:12-15**
* **Thursday 1 Corinthians 13:4-6**
* **Friday 2 Timothy 3:16-17**
* **Saturday Titus 1:1-2**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

August 10, 2014 Colossians 1:9-11

**Walking With God**

1. It is important to seek God from the right sources.

*We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives.* **Colossians 1:9**

1. We are all on a journey with God, walking with Him through our lives.

*...so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.* **Colossians 1:10**

1. When you walk with God it shows in you life.

*…bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God…* **Colossians 1:10**

1. God makes his power available to walk with him even in the toughest times.

*…being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience…* **Colossians 1:11**

Meditate

What do you gain your knowledge of God from? How do you gain your knowledge about life in general?

How have you seen your relationship with God as a journey? What are some milestones?

How do other people know that you walk with God in your life? How does your life reflect him?

What do you need God to help you do in your life? What is it that you need to give up to him?

*Lord, where I am weak you are strong and I praise you for that. I know I need to spend more time in your Word and I commit to do that as I pray this prayer. I desire to know more of you so that my life may be worthy of you and your calling. Strengthen me with your dynamic power in ways that I have only imagined. In the powerful name of Jesus I pray, amen.*

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday 2 Timothy 1:6-8**
* **Tuesday Philippians 4:10-13**
* **Wednesday 2 Corinthians 6:12-17**
* **Thursday Luke 10:19**
* **Friday 2 Corinthians 12:9**
* **Saturday Ephesians 3:16**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

August 17, 2014 Colossians 1:12-14

**Real Thanks**

1. How you show your thankfulness says a lot about whether you understand the gift.

*…and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.* **Colossians 1:12**

1. God rescued us then moved us to safety.

*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves…*

**Colossians 1:13**

1. Jesus pays all our debts and frees us to live lives for his glory!

*In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**Colossians 1:14**

1. “Giving joyful thanks” means using the new life God gave you to it’s fullest.

Meditate

What was a gift you received from someone that you never used? How might that person have felt if they knew you did not use it?

What does God rescue you from? What is the ‘dominion of darkness’ look like for you?

How do you feel about the freedom that you have in Christ? Is it a big deal? Why or why not?

What specifically will you do this week to honor God with the life he gave you and live thankfully?

*Lord, thank you for the life that you gave me when you died on the cross for my sins then rose again defeating death. I will show you my gratitude this week by (insert action). Remind me of your graciousness Lord and I will share with other the joy I have found in you. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday 1 Thessalonians 5:18**
* **Tuesday Psalm 107**
* **Wednesday James 1:17-18**
* **Thursday Psalm 118:1-18**
* **Friday Psalm 100:1-4**
* **Saturday Psalm 119:1-11**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

August 24, 2014 Colossians 1:15-17

**No One Greater**

1. If you are looking for God you will find him in Jesus.

*The Son is the image of the invisible God…* **Colossians 1:15**

1. Jesus’ status as the firstborn gives him authority over everything.

*…the firstborn over all creation.* **Colossians 1:15**

1. Life cannot be full understood without first going to the source of everything-Jesus.

*For in him all things have been created…* **Colossians 1:16**

1. Jesus is the divine glue that holds everything together.

*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

**Colossians 1:17**

*He keeps the cosmos from becoming chaos.* **H.C.G. Moule**

Meditate

Where have you looked for God in the past? What kinds of things led you to him?

When you look at your life, how does Jesus’ authority over everything speak to you most deeply?

When you have tried to fully understand life without Jesus in the equation, what did you feel was missing? Describe the experience.

How are you comforted when you understand that Jesus holds everything together?

*Jesus you are more powerful than anything that has existed in my life, or in this world. I put my hope in you know that you are the glue that holds everything thing together. I trust that your plans are greater, and your wisdom in more complete than mine will ever be. I worship and honor your great name. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Psalm 24**
* **Tuesday Romans 1**
* **Wednesday 2 Corinthians 4:1-6**
* **Thursday John 1:1-14**
* **Friday Ephesians 1:20-21**
* **Saturday Revelation 1**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

August 31, 2014 Colossians 1:18-20

**Bringing It All Together**

1. Jesus and the Church are intimately connected.

*And he is the head of the body, the church…*

**Colossians 1:18**

1. Jesus defeated the undefeatable when he rose from the dead.

*…he is the beginning and firstborn among the dead so that in everything he might have supremacy.* **Colossians 1:18**

1. God’s purposes are only fulfilled if Jesus is God.

*For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him…* **Colossians 1:19**

1. God wants to repair all the damage ever done through Jesus.

*…and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.* **Colossians 1:20**

Meditate

What are some of the benefits of being part of the local church?

Does it give you hope to know that Christ defeated the undefeatable? Why or why not?

How do you see God’s purposes fulfilled through Jesus?

How do you see yourself as a part of fulfilling God purposes here on earth?

*Jesus, I thank you for the divine intimacy you have with your church. You proved your love to me even when you did not have to. I praise you for your sacrifice and the work you are doing even now in redeeming your world. I want to be a part of that. Show me where I can be a light and repair damage that is done. I am your willing servant. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Ephesians 1:15-23**
* **Tuesday Acts 26:19-23**
* **Wednesday 2 Corinthians 4:1-6**
* **Thursday John 1:15-18**
* **Friday 2 Corinthians 5:18-21**
* **Saturday Ephesians 2:11-13**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

September 7, 2014 Colossians 1:21-23

**A Message From God**

1. We took initiative to break fellowship with God.

*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in our minds because of your evil behavior.*

**Colossians 1:21**

1. God desires a whole relationship with you.

*But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation* **Colossians 1:22**

1. The relationship is whole when we do our part.

*If you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.* **Colossians 1:23a**

1. The message is for everyone, and you need to share it.

*This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.* **Colossians 1:23b**

Meditate

What is a way of thinking that separates you from the message of God?

Where do you see your thoughts playing out into action that you know is not pleasing with God?

What does a “whole” relationship with God look like in your life? What fractures it?

What part do you play in your relationship with God?

Who do you need to share the message of Jesus with? Be specific.

*God we have done so much damage to our relationship with you. But you have repaired that relationship through your son Jesus. I put my faith in him and take comfort in his amazing love. I will play my part in growing closer to you and sharing that passion with others. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Matthew 28:16-20**
* **Tuesday Philippians 2:12-13**
* **Wednesday James 2:20-24**
* **Thursday Matthew 10:1-42**
* **Friday Colossians 1:1-23**
* **Saturday 1 Peter 3:15**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

What are you most passionate about? How does that play out in the way you live?

What would it look like if you were to reorient some of your passion toward the things of God?

Who do you know personally that could benefit from knowing more about who God is?

Have you ever thought of your faith as a message for the world?

*God I praise you for the powerful work you did in the life of your servant Paul. His passion serves a great example for me in my faith. Show me where to apply this passion. Tell me who I need to tell about the message that you are not a secret but you are ready and waiting for all those who come to you. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

September 14, 2014 Colossians 1:24-27

**Mysteries Revealed**

1. The Apostle Paul was passionate about the mission of the church.

*Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you…for the sake of his body, which is the church.* **Colossians 1:24**

1. We understand the power of this mission when we take part in it.

*I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness…*

**Colossians 1:25**

1. People are desperate to know about God and we have been given the information.

*The mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people.*

**Colossians 1:26**

1. God has chosen his people to bring a message of hope to the world

*To them God has chosen to make known among the gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* **Colossians 1:27**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Matthew 21:34-36**
* **Tuesday Mark 12:2-5**
* **Wednesday Luke 20:10-12**
* **Thursday Isaiah 56:6**
* **Friday Ezekiel 44:11**
* **Saturday Isaiah 43:10**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

Where do you add to the brokenness that exists in this world?

What do you want God to repair in you? What do you need forgiveness for?

Have you called on God for salvation? Why or why not?

What do you feels holds you back from a deep relationship with God?

*God, I know that I have sinned against you and am deserving of punishment. But Jesus Christ took the punishment that I deserve so that through faith in Him I could be forgiven. With your help, I place my trust in You for salvation. Thank You for Your wonderful grace and forgiveness - the gift of eternal life! Amen!*

Read more: http://www.gotquestions.org/Romans-road-salvation.html#ixzz3DakicBoI

September 21, 2014 Colossians 1:28

**The Best Message…Ever!**

1. There is real hope amid the brokenness and suffering of this world.

*The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* **Romans 6:23**

1. God is committed to repairing what is broken.

*But God demonstrates his own loves for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us.* **Romans 5:8**

1. We have to take action to call on God.

*For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

**Romans 10:13**

1. God answers us with freedom and life.

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angel nor demons, neither present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.* **Romans 8:38-39**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Romans 3:10-18, 23**
* **Tuesday Romans 6:23**
* **Wednesday Romans 5:8**
* **Thursday Romans 10:9-13**
* **Friday Romans 5:1**
* **Saturday Romans 8:38-39**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

Where do you feel a strain in your heart between what us wrong and what is right?

What would following Jesus cost you?

How would you describe a ‘deeper joy’ in your own words?

What has been something that you believed but ended up being a lie?

Who can you encourage in their faith walk today?

*Lord I thank you for the victory you won over sin through your son Jesus. I will call on his when I feel my heart pulling away from you. Show me the deeper joy that I have in you when I follow your will for my life. I know that your word will always steer me down the right path, let me hear your voice. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

September 28, 2014 Colossians 1:29-2:5

**The Battle For Our Hearts**

1. There are two sides that contend for the loyalty of our hearts

*To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.* **Colossians 1:29**

1. Following Jesus means losing ourselves and finding deeper joy.

*My goal is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding…* **Colossians 2:2**

1. If it sounds too god to be true, then it probably is.

*I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine sounding arguments.* **Colossians 2:4**

1. There are people cheering for your victory even though you may never see them.

*For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how disciplined you are and how firm your faith is in Christ Jesus.* **Colossians 2:5**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday 1 Corinthians 15:9-11**
* **Tuesday Romans 11:33-36**
* **Wednesday 1 Corinthians 1:24-30**
* **Thursday Romans 16:17-20**
* **Friday 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12**
* **Saturday 1 Peter 5:4-9**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Meditate

When did your journey with God begin-has it even begun?

How is your life different in light of the life which Jesus has given you?

What are you doing now to strengthen your understanding of God?

If you were to describe the strength of your faith would you say it is deeply rooted, shallow rooted, or nonexistent?

What are you spiritually thankful for?

*Lord Jesus. It seems strange that I would call you Lord, but ignore your Lordship each day. I will start new today. I will submit to your will and find strength in you. There is no one greater, and nothing more worthy of my praise in worship. I give you my life Lord, please use it. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.*

October 19, 2014 Colossians 2:6-7

**Make It Real-Make It Last**

1. Our journey with God begins with a reception.

*So then, just as you received Christ Jesus and Lord…* **Colossians 2:6**

1. The work of following Jesus continues long after you first receive him.

*…continue to live your lives in him.* **Colossians 2:6**

1. We must be intentional about learning more, and going deeper.

*…rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught…* **Colossians 2:7**

1. When you know Jesus you realize you are entitled to nothing, but thankful for everything.

*…and overflowing with thankfulness.* **Colossians 2:7**

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Ephesians 4:1-7**
* **Tuesday Ephesians 6:10-20**
* **Wednesday Romans 8:31-39**
* **Thursday Mark 8:34-38**
* **Friday Matthew 5:1-12**
* **Saturday Matthew 5:13-16**

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**Hebrews 4:12**