

Equations

Context

At the time of the Apostle Paul's writing of the book of Colossians, false teachers had crept up and were denying the deity of Jesus. To combat the destructive false claims Paul emphasized Jesus' deity, Jesus' connection to God the Father, and Christ's sacrificial death on the cross for sin.

We find that Colossians gives us a lofty, penetrating view of who Jesus is. And with this view, an understanding of how the truth of who He is can profoundly impact our personal lives. We will see that Jesus Christ is the supreme factor in every equation of life.

Questions for Study- Read Colossians 1:1-14

1. Reread verse 1. By what authority, which Paul makes clear, is he speaking from? Why do you think he does this?
2. Reread verse 2. Notice the two adjectives Paul uses to describe this group of Christ followers. What two adjectives would you want him to use to describe you...to describe Brookside?
3. Reread verse 3. What are the two things that make Paul "thankful" for this group of Christ followers? What is the source of these attributes for the Colossians (vs. 5)?
4. Reread verse 9. Notice that Paul has not stopped praying for a group of people that he has "heard about". Paul doesn't personally know this group. How often do you pray for people, or churches that you have no personal connection to? Pick a church other than Brookside, either that you care about, or that you just drive by, and pray for that church this coming week.
5. Notice the frequency by which Paul is praying for this group. It says "since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you..." What types of things should we "never stop" praying for others and ourselves?
6. Reread verse 10-12. What is Paul's end goal in mind as he prays? What does he long to see lived out in the Colossians so that their lives might be "worthy of the Lord and my please him in every way..."

7. Evaluate your prayer life...what have you learned from the components of Paul's prayer? How can you put that into practice this coming week?