

Christ at the Core 2
Welcome to Colossae 46530
Colossians 1:1-2
September 19, 2010

1. What is your zip code? How long have you lived there? What similarities are there between the culture of Colossae A.D. 62 and Granger 2010? If God wrote a letter to address the most urgent spiritual needs in your zip code what would the letter say? Does God really need to write another letter or would the words contained in the letter He wrote to the Colossians address the needs in Granger?
2. The book of Colossians was addressed to one church but was to be read by several churches (Col. 4:16). It is one of sixty-six books inspired by God in which he revealed himself to humanity. Read 2Timothy 3:16-17. What is the four-fold purpose of the book of Colossians? How must you read Colossians differently than any other book outside of scripture?
3. God used Paul to write Colossians while he was in prison for boldly sharing the gospel. (Acts 21:27-36, 28:16) If you were Paul, what would your attitude have been while sitting in prison? What hardships are you facing now that are causing you misery? Do you realize that God may allow you to face misery in order to birth your greatest ministry? Are you using your misery as an excuse for not embracing ministry? How are you turning your misery into ministry?
4. Read Col. 4:7. God used Tychicus to deliver God's Word to the Colossians. What would have happened if Tychicus decided to crawl in a cave, study the letter every day, memorized it, but never deliver it to the people who needed its truth? How does God want you to be a "Tychicus".
5. Are you a saint? What makes a person a saint? What miracle must take place in order for a person to be a saint? Who performs the miracle? How is the Bible's definition of a saint different than what you may have heard in other faith systems?
6. Read Colossians 2:8. What is more of a threat in the 46530: Islamic terrorism or "Christian errorism"?
7. Paul wrote to the Colossians to warn them against "errorism". While some Christians needlessly fight over everything. Other Christians refuse to fight for anything. Which category do you tend to fall into? Why? What doctrines should be fought for? In what secondary issues should differing Christians exercise deference? Have you fought over non-essential doctrines? Have you refused to defend core doctrines allowing an erosion of the gospel?

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8. At the core of the Colossian heresy was a shift from Christ at the core. The error was not to deny Christ, but to add to him. It was a departure from the belief that Jesus is sufficient. Which of the following additions to Christ are you most prone to?
 - a. Mental Merger – Christ and reason. (Col. 2:8-10)
 - b. Mysticism – Christ and experience. (Col. 2:18, 26-27)
 - c. Moralism – Christ and regulations. (Col. 2:20-23)

(Note: Resist the temptation to dive in too deeply to these in your discussion. We will deal with them more thoroughly in future messages.)
9. The failure of all faith systems apart from Christianity is they can't deliver grace and peace. How has the grace of God been evident in your life this week?
10. Read Col. 1:20, 3:15. Is the peace of Christ ruling in your heart? If not, you should examine whether what has taken the place of Christ at your core? What has taken His place of preeminence in your life?
11. As a Father, God's has grace available for his children who find themselves away from Christ at the core? Read James 4:6. Whom does God resist? To whom does God give grace? What specific things will you do this week to humble yourself and cry out for grace?