

# LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

## citygroups

Fall 2021

Week of October 10th

Studies in Colossians

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Membership Class on October 24th- [Link to sign up on website](#)

Parking Team Volunteers Needed!

Team Tallahassee is in need of concession stand volunteers- Contact Zach for more information (This would be a GREAT City Group activity!)

### DISCUSSION FOCUS

Read (Primary Text): Colossians 1:9-23

Supporting Texts: Colossians 1:3-8; Luke 1:76-79; 2 Corinthians 5:21; James 1:5

**MAIN IDEA: We have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of light by the work of Jesus Christ. Therefore we will reflect this new identity both on the inside (our beliefs) and the outside (our actions).**

### OBSERVE

Paul begins the letter to the Colossians by expressing his joy in their faith and encouraging them to continue in their love for Christ and their obedience to His word. He even states that their faith is bearing fruit (Col. 1:6)! They still have a lot of growing to do, though, and this letter will help them to continue to grow in godliness.

According to 1:10-12, how can we walk in a way that is pleasing to God? *Doing good works, growing in the knowledge of God, and being strengthened with His power, which gives us patience and endurance*

Verses 15-20 beautifully illustrate the total supremacy of Christ and His role in all of creation. What is included in the scope of things originally created by Him (vs. 15-17)? *Everything: the visible and the invisible, thrones and dominions, rulers and authorities. All things hold together in Him.*

What is Christ's role in the new creation, the Church (vs. 18-20)? *He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead (the resurrection), and through his death and resurrection, God has reconciled all things to Himself.*

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### INTERPRET

In verses 12 and 13, Paul uses light and darkness to contrast those who are saints in Christ (those who have been saved) with those who do not know Christ. According to Luke 1:76-79, how is Jesus that light to us? He will give us the knowledge of salvation, and forgive our sins, shining his light on us while we were in the dark shadow of death. His mercy and forgiveness frees us from that darkness.

One of the sins the Colossians committed was worshiping other gods along with Christ. How would Paul's hymn in verses 15-20 correct their theology? These verses teach that Christ is ahead of any created thing, including their gods that they were also worshiping. As Creator, the One who holds all things together, and the reconciler of all of creation back to God, it is absolutely foolish and sinful to give devotion to or worship anything other than Christ.

Verse 21 says that when we were alienated from Christ in our minds, we expressed that alienation with our evil actions. But now that He has reconciled us to God, He presents us holy, faultless, and blameless before God. Does this mean that we no longer sin? See 2 Cor. 5:21. No, Christ's death on the cross paid for our sins and we have received his righteousness. This means that our standing before God is that we are holy, faultless, and blameless because of Jesus's atonement.

### RESPOND

Are you bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God?

Have you seen a shift in your thoughts and actions since you came to faith in Jesus Christ?

### APPLY

How do we remain grounded and steadfast in our faith (v. 23)? What things try to shift us away from the hope of the gospel?

James 1:5 says we can and should ask God for wisdom. How can this help us to keep our eyes on Christ and help others to do so as well?