

LEADER OVERVIEW - APRIL WEEK 2

Text: Colossians 1:15-20

Objective: For Young Adults to see that Jesus is worthy of our worship. In other words, he is worth *first place* in our lives.

Text Overview: This letter was written circa A.D. 62 by the apostle Paul and possibly his apprentice Timothy. This letter was written to the church in Colossae located in Asia Minor, which is in modern day Turkey. The letter was written in response to a message the founder of the Colossian church, a man named Epaphras (cf. Colossian 1:7, 4:12), most likely relayed to Paul and Timothy while they were in Rome. As a result, this letter specifically addresses theological concerns in the Colossian church about worldly teachings.

Text Explanation: The purpose of this passage is to highlight one thing: the *preeminence* of Jesus. The dictionary definition of the word *preeminence* is, “the fact of surpassing all others; *or* superiority.” Another way to look at this is that in everything Jesus is *first place*. At the time this letter was written, the Colossian church was experiencing many false teachings contrary to the gospel of salvation through faith in Jesus (cf. Col. 2:4, 8, 16, 20-23 on false teachings). These false teachings, possibly from Jewish origin or from Gnosticism, were leading believers away from the gospel that is found only in Jesus. As a result, Paul fills this letter with rich truths about who God is. While the Colossian church was being led to follow arbitrary rules and festivals, Paul points them back to the God who is greater than any meaningless law or human philosophy. That is why Paul wrote this passage in Colossians, to highlight the *preeminence* of Jesus. Paul reminds the Colossian church that Jesus is *first place*. He stands above everything, he holds ultimate authority, he has complete control of the universe, and he leads the charge for the church. If this is true, this passage highlights that Jesus is worthy of our worship. Why would we chase after other “truth” or worldly things when Jesus holds all things together? He is the creator of every authority (v. 16, cf. John 19:11), he is the head of the church (v. 18), he holds God’s ultimate stamp of approval (v. 19), and he gave up his life so that we might be reconnected to God (v. 20). In all things, he holds *first place*. And he is worthy of our worship.

Discussion Instructions: Questions 4 and 5 provide a space to share about what God has done and is doing in each of your group member’s lives. *General Tip:* After reading this passage as a group, it could be helpful to start with the question, “What sticks out to you from this passage?” Use your discretion in doing this before launching into the questions on the sheet.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - APRIL WEEK 2

Read Colossians 1:15-20

1. Which of these descriptions of Jesus amazes you the most and why?
2. How would you respond if someone asked you, 'what were you created for?'
3. What would your life look like if you saw every aspect of it as being created FOR Jesus? (Job, school, family, hobbies) This might seem like a scary truth. Why might it be *good* to live FOR Jesus?
4. When have you seen God hold all things together in your life?
5. If it is true that God holds all things together, how should this change our view of the Church, government, or pop culture when everything falls apart?

