



An Encouraging Beginning

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

January 19, 2020

because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people — the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you.— Colossians 1:4-6a

A Little Background of Colossians ... Who, What, Where, Why?

A Greeting to Colosse ... Colossians 1:1-8

I. Their place _____ and _____ – vs. 2

II. Gratitude for the Colossian's ... – vs. 3-5a

a. _____ ...

b. _____ ...

c. _____ ...

III. Acknowledgment of the Gospel – vs. 5b-6

a. Its _____ ...

b. Its _____ ...

c. Its _____ ...

Let's Consider ...

I. The Cultural Pressures have been and continue to have only one desire – _____ (Rom. 12:2)

II. Where we are _____ is far more important that where we are _____.

III. The most important step of faith for you, is your _____.

Truth for Life

For the week of January 19, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Can you identify any moral or ethical differences between today and the time of your youth? Changes in what is acceptable? Changes in what is regularly seen in TV, movies, or media? Changes in the way we relate to each other?

What do you think is the greatest influence to these changes? Have you seen the “Christian” community embrace or adopt any of these changes?

2. This week we heard how it's more important to know where we are “in Christ” than where we are “in life.” How do the following verses help us know what it means to live “in Christ”? Can you think of any present-day examples of these verses in action?

Galatians 2:20

Ephesians 2:10

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Philippians 1:9-11

Titus 3:4-8

1 Thessalonians 1:3

3. How has your life changed (the way you think, the way you respond, the way you act, etc.) since you became a follower of Jesus? What tools has God used in your life to cause or affect those changes? What Scriptures have been most influential in causing those changes?

4. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.

a. If you could change just one thing about your walk with God, what would it be? How can you begin to change it?

b. How can a believer know whether an outward matter is conformity with the world or just culturally and spiritually neutral?

c. Must growing Christians be reading Christians? Practically, how can a non-reader become a reader?

d. What criteria can we apply to determine whether a matter not specified in the Bible is worldly or godly? (See 1 Cor. 6:12-20)



An Encouraging Beginning

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

January 19, 2020

because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people — the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel that has come to you.— Colossians 1:4-6a

A Little Background of Colossians ... Who, What, Where, Why?

A Greeting to Colosse ... Colossians 1:1-8

I. Their place **in Christ** and **in the World** – vs. 2

II. Gratitude for the Colossian's ... – vs. 3-5a

- a. **Faith** ... Belief, trust and obedience.
- b. **Love** ... A decision and action, not just an emotion
- c. **Hope** ... Confidence based on God's character and promises

III. Acknowledgment of the Gospel – vs. 5b-6

- a. Its **Foundation** ... Truth
- b. Its **Potential** ... Transformation
- c. Its **Offer** ... Grace

Let's Consider ...

- I. The Cultural Pressures have been and continue to have only one desire – **Conformity** (Rom. 12:2)
- II. Where we are **in Christ** is far more important than where we are **in Life**.
- III. The most important step of faith for you, is your **next step**.

Truth for Life

For the week of January 19, 2020

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

- 5. Can you identify any moral or ethical differences between today and the time of your youth? Changes in what is acceptable? Changes in what is regularly seen in TV, movies, or media? Changes in the way we relate to each other?

What do you think is the greatest influence to these changes? Have you seen the “Christian” community embrace or adopt any of these changes?

- 6. This week we heard how it's more important to know where we are “in Christ” than where we are “in life.” How do the following verses help us know what it means to live “in Christ”? Can you think of any present-day examples of these verses in action?

Galatians 2:20

Ephesians 2:10

2 Corinthians 5:17-20

Philippians 1:9-11

Titus 3:4-8

1 Thessalonians 1:3

- 7. How has your life changed (the way you think, the way you respond, the way you act, etc.) since you became a follower of Jesus? What tools has God used in your life to cause or affect those changes? What Scriptures have been most influential in causing those changes?
- 8. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
 - e. If you could change just one thing about your walk with God, what would it be? How can you begin to change it?
 - f. How can a believer know whether an outward matter is conformity with the world or just culturally and spiritually neutral?
 - g. Must growing Christians be reading Christians? Practically, how can a non-reader become a reader?
 - h. What criteria can we apply to determine whether a matter not specified in the Bible is worldly or godly? (See 1 Cor. 6:12-20)