



## Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

August 20 – Colossians 1:24-29 | Group Discussion Guide

**Begin with silence and prayer (5-10 minutes).**

*Begin your time together in silence. In your silence, acknowledge that the Lord God, the creator and sustainer of everything and everyone, is worthy of all praise.*

After you have finished reading and sitting in silence, have someone in the group pray for your time together.

**Split into smaller groups to read Colossians 1:24-29 and discuss (15 minutes).**

- Take a few minutes and read Colossians 1:24-29.
- Once you've finished reading, answer the following questions:
  1. What does Paul say he rejoices in according to verse 24? What does he mean?
  2. According to Paul in verse 25, what is his role regarding the church?
  3. What is Paul's primary goal in his ministry according to verse 28 and the source of his energy for ministry according to verse 29?
- Once you've finished with these questions, spend one minute reflecting on your conversation. Is there anything that's sticking with you from God's Word?

**Come back together as a large group to talk about the sermon (30 minutes).**

- In Dan's sermon, he highlighted Paul's words about *maturity* in Christ in verses 28-29. What is your understanding of maturity? How would you define it in your own words, and how does this definition align with what the Scriptures say about maturity?
- To talk about spiritual maturity, Dan talked about spiritual immaturity. What signs of spiritual immaturity do you see prominent in Christians today? What about in yourself?
- Of the list of signs of spiritual immaturity that Dan mentioned (lack of discernment, unwillingness to repent of sin, focusing on behavior modification rather than heart transformation, independence, and pride), which are you needing to grow in most? Explain.
- Reflect on your past experiences and decisions. How have you seen yourself grow or change in your walk with Christ? What were the defining moments or lessons that contributed to your spiritual development?
- Of the list of signs of spiritual maturity that Dan mentioned (awareness of weaknesses, your reaction when mistreated, contentment, sustained intimacy with God, and a life of abundant love), which of these do you feel others would notice most in you? Do you feel it in yourself?
- Lastly, Dan talked about the pathway of spiritual maturity or how we grow in maturity. He gave us a fivefold path to foster Christlikeness with the help of God's spirit: (1) embrace Scripture; (2) seek discipleship; (3) serve in selfless ways; (4) meet with God in your brokenness; and (5) stay the course. Which of these are present in your life? Which are not?
- In what ways have you seen these help you grow in maturity throughout your life?
- What do you feel like a next step of obedience is as a result of today's discussion?

**Spend time memorizing Scripture (10 minutes).**

Take a few minutes to break apart and challenge your group to begin memorizing Colossians 1:28.

**Finish with logistics and prayer (10 minutes).**

1. Make sure to inform your group about the study devotionals available to help you walk through the text of Colossians! You can find that material at [thecreek.org/devotionals](http://thecreek.org/devotionals).
2. Also, be sure to challenge your group to memorize the verse for this week: **Colossians 1:28**. You'll be asked next week to recite them in group!
3. Finish your group session with prayer. Break everyone down into triads to end the night with prayer for one another. In the groups, have people share "What is on your heart that you need prayer for?" and then spend time praying.