



Our hope is that you were challenged by Sunday's message and would desire to take the study a little deeper. Whether for personal study, family study, or for a Home Group gathering, use this study to go deeper.

**Open**

**September 2, 2018**

Do you realize that no one in the Colossian church ever personally met Jesus? Do you realize that almost no one in the Colossian church ever met Paul? How then was there even a church of Jesus Christ in Colossae?! There was a church because Jesus met and commissioned Paul, and Paul discipled a Colossian named Epaphras, and Epaphras journeyed home to nurture a small band of followers. In an effort to revive a discipleship movement—a movement of faithful men and women who accept Jesus' Commission to build intentional relationships of leading and following—we learn a lot from this letter to a band of Colossian disciples and disciple-makers!

**Main Point**

Paul celebrated the fruit of the gospel in Colossae because of the testimony of a Colossian disciple named Epaphras, and it gave Paul great confidence that his challenge to “walk in [Christ]” would be embraced.

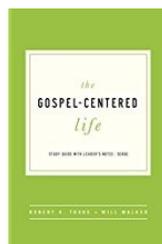
**Read**

Colossians 1:1-8; 2:5-7

**Discuss**

- In your particular version, count the number of times Paul says “heard” in reference to the faith of the Colossian church. What does that say about the task and strategy of making disciples?
- Imagine the conversation between Paul and Epaphras AFTER he has gone home to Colossae. What was Paul's first question for Epaphras? What was Epaphras' first question for Paul?
- When Paul challenges a Christ-like life in these beloved believers, why should he expect them to be faithful to fulfill it? Why so confident?

*Beginning next week, in place of this regular, follow-up resource, we are recommending another study guide. Our home groups will also be using it. If you are in a home group, look for your copy through that. If you are not in one, we still want as many of you to participate on your own. Individual copies are available at the back of the auditorium. If you are able, a fee of \$5.00/book is requested. You can indicate on a cash envelope or check memo line “study books” and place it in the regular offering.*



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