

TEEN REVOLUTION ENERGY

TEEN REV DEVOTION

"To this end I strenuously contend with all the **energy** Christ so powerfully works in me." –The Apostle Paul (Colossians 1:29)

Biblical Context:

The biblical story tells us how humans fell captive to the kingdom of darkness by disregarding Yahweh, their loving Creator. Instead, they submitted to the temptation from Satan to become their own gods. The rest of the story is how God devised a plan to rescue humanity in and through His Son Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul was given the task by Jesus Himself to go throughout the known world and preach the Good News.

*Remember- this was an actual letter written by Paul to the church in Colossae. It was intended to be read all the way through. Paul builds an argument from start to finish. We must not isolate any portion of Colossians apart from the whole book.

Historical Context:

The fact that Paul, the author, was in prison for preaching that Jesus was the Messiah gives us some idea of what it was like to be a Christian in the Roman Empire. The Christians in Colossae faced opposition on three fronts; persecution from the Roman empire, lofty wisdom from Greek philosophers, and confrontation from Jewish believers within the church who sought to add to the gospel. Paul had never been to Colossae, but one of his coworkers, Epaphras, helped start this church and visited Paul in prison. Paul writes this letter to encourage them to remain faithful despite opposition, and to be thankful even in persecution; for now they were part of God's family, which meant that what belonged to Jesus was theirs too.

SESSION 1

What energized Paul?

Colossians 1:1-23

Overview:

In this passage, Paul wants to point the church in Colossae to Jesus. He reminds them who Jesus is—the image and fullness of God, what He has done—bringing them into His righteous kingdom, and who they were in Him—a new creation in Christ. (v.12-15) He wants them to know that through the knowledge of Jesus, they can have new life—life brought about by the Holy Spirit.

What to expect:

In this material, we are going to take a look into the transformed life of the Apostle Paul, and what energized him, what the Gospel is, why he could have joy while sitting in jail, what relevance this has to us today.

Paul's Observations

1. Paul didn't see this energy coming from himself. (1:11)
2. Paul understood who Jesus is. (1:15-20)
3. Paul understood what Jesus has done. (1:13-14, 19-23)
4. Paul understood who he was in Christ (our inheritance). (1:12)
5. Paul's life was being changed by the gospel. (1:9-12)
6. THIS IS ALL DONE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Discussion Questions

1. Look at verses 13-23: who was Jesus?
2. Look at the same verses, explain what Jesus has done?
3. Who were we before Christ rescued us and what is our inheritance now?
4. According to verse 20, what did Christ' death accomplish?
5. According to verses 9-12, how does the Good News about Jesus continue to change us after we are saved?
6. What energized Paul?

SESSION 2

How did Paul use this energy?

Colossians 1:24-2:5

Overview:

Although Paul was suffering in prison, he remained joyful because of God's power at work in him. In this passage, Paul tells the Colossians of the great mystery that was revealed to them—the person and work of Christ. All of the Old Testament points to Jesus through examples, allusion, and prophetic words, but now in the New Testament, we see Jesus clearly as the fullness of God. This truth energized Paul to serve and minister to the Colossians.

What to expect:

In this passage, we see Paul's joyful endurance, the revelation of Jesus, Paul's desire to share this energy with others, and the power of a church that is unified in heart and mind.

Paul's Observations

1. Paul rejoiced in his sufferings.
2. He was passionate about explaining the good news of Jesus to others.
3. Jesus is the revelation of the mystery in the Old Testament.
4. The energy was given to him by God to spread with others.
5. Paul wanted the Colossians to unite in love and growing in the knowledge of Christ.
6. Unity and understanding Christ are the foundations of resisting deceptions.

Discussions Questions

1. How could we be able to rejoice even during suffering?
2. What is the mystery that has been revealed to us?
3. How does this energy overflow to others?
4. What are some ways we can together dive into the riches of the knowledge of Christ?
5. How do unity and understanding Christ energize our faith?
6. How did Paul use this energy?

SESSION 3

How is God's energy better than any other?

Colossians 2:6-23

Overview:

Paul is addressing some of the contrasting views that society or other religions are pushing onto the Christians of Colossae. Paul is showing that the life and joy found in the Good News of Jesus is so much better than the death, frustrations, and emptiness found in human philosophies, false gods, and Jewish traditions and laws. Paul is revealing that Christ has supremacy over all the powers and authorities in creation, and He is the only one worthy of our worship and dependence.

What to expect:

In this passage Paul distinguishes the authority and power of Christ working life in us and the counterfeit authority and powers of this world working death in us.

Paul's Observations

1. Jesus is the ultimate foundation of our faith.
2. Jesus frees us; human philosophies enslave us.
3. Jesus is the fullness of God, the ultimate authority, and He has defeated all evil powers.
4. Jesus, not religious practice, qualifies us to receive the inheritance in Christ.
5. Idolatry of self and spirituality (seeking a spiritual encounter outside of Christ) disqualifies us; Jesus qualifies us.
6. Jesus gives us power over the flesh; I alone cannot defeat my flesh.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important for Jesus to be our foundation?
2. How is Jesus better than human philosophies?
3. What has Jesus done in us to overcome world?
4. Why are religious practices worthless without Christ? alone not change our desires?
5. How does Jesus energize us to overcome sin when our flesh can't?
6. How is God's energy better than any other?

SESSION 4

How does this energy change our minds, hearts, and lives?

Colossians 3-4

Overview

Paul tells the Colossians that practical Christian living is built on the foundation of believing that Jesus is truly raised from the dead. Our identification with Him becomes real when we believe the good news of the gospel. This realization of the truth is what allows Paul, the Colossians, and ultimately us to be energized. Since we have been "raised with Christ", we should act like Jesus did after He was raised from the dead. Just as Jesus left the tomb, we should leave the grave and minister to others.

What to expect:

Paul encourages the Colossians to be heavenly-minded; (1-4) to deny all worldly desires; (5-11) to live in mutual love, patience, and forgiveness; (12-17) and to practice the responsibilities of wives and husbands, children, parents, and servants. (18-25)

Paul's Observations

1. Christ is currently sitting on the throne—He is reigning right now.
2. This new life in Christ was not only a new way of living, but first, a new way of thinking. (3:2)
3. True service to Christ is not out of duty, but from a thankful heart for the reigning king. (Col. 3:15-17)
4. All of humanity as one, in and under Christ and His authority. (3:11, 18-4:1)
5. Paul understands Christ serves all people through His people.
6. Paul's inheritance in Christ energized his worship and service to the community. (3:17-4:1)

Discussion Questions

1. How does Christ's current reign change my view about the current kingdoms of the world?
2. According to verses 1-10 how do we "put on the new self" and "put to death the flesh"?
3. If I find no joy in serving what does this say about my mindset?
4. What role does Christian community (the church) play in the renewing of our minds?
5. How does this chapter shape the way we live right now?
6. How does this energy change our minds, hearts, and lives?