

COLOSSIANS

ABOVE ALL



COLOSSIANS: ABOVE ALL

Paul writes to the church at Colossae to show that Jesus Christ is greater than Caesar and what they already have in Christ Jesus is sufficient and supreme. Jesus truly is above all other rulers. His kingdom reign is above all governments. His work is above all other accomplishments. And all who are in Christ can live a life above all that the world offers. And that greater life can be experienced and expressed in everything we do, everywhere, every day.

PART 2: A WORTHY WALK

Read the text: Colossians 1:9-14

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul shares his prayer for the Colossian church, reminding them that He has delivered them from the domain of darkness and transferred them to the kingdom of the Son. They are now qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints receiving redemption and forgiveness of sins. Paul prays that they would have a full knowledge of God's will and a full measure of God's

power so that they may walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work.

Discussion Questions:

These questions are written for DNA groups, but you can use them in any setting, including missional communities. Because they were written for the intimacy of DNA friendships, you may need to adjust for larger groups.

1. Paul thanks God that He has “qualified” the Colossians to share in the inheritance of the saints. Paul is reminding the church that they did not earn a place in God’s family, but it was God who qualified them through the work of Jesus, His Son. Yet, we often live as if we qualify ourselves for the privilege of being God’s children. Why is that the case? Why do we seek to qualify ourselves?
2. How does this kind of self-sufficiency show up in your life? How do you seek to qualify yourself? What lies, or Gospel distortions, are you believing when you do this?
3. The Colossians were hearing from their culture that Jesus was not enough...that they needed Jesus + Caesar or Jesus + the latest pagan religious practice. They heard that Jesus wasn’t Lord of all, but only one lord among many. Today, we too are being told Jesus is not enough. So, we seek to add Jesus to our current life rather than submit our whole life to His rule. What does that look like for you? What areas of your life are you tempted to try to keep separate from the rule of Jesus? (*Avoid the generic, easy answer. Be specific and honest with each other.*) Why do you think that is?
4. In this passage, Paul prays for the Colossian church, whom he had never actually met in person. Yet he loved them deeply. Who are the people God has called you to pray for in this same way?