CoreGroups

Study Guide
(Week of: 11-08-26)

BACKGROUND PASSAGE(S): Colossians 1:1-2:23; 3:9–11; Genesis 1:1–31; 3:17–19; 18:1–22; Exodus 3:1–15; Job 38:1–42:6; Psalm 89:20-27; Proverbs 8:22–31; Isaiah 6:1–5; 40:12–31; 43:10-13; Micah 5:2; Matthew 6:25–34; John 1:1–18; 8:51-59; 12:37–41; 17:5; Romans 1:24-25; 8:18–29; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18–4:6; Ephesians 1:9–10; Hebrews 1:1-4; 13:8; 2 Peter 3:5–13; Revelation 4:11; 21:1–5

KEY VERSE(S): – Colossians 1:16-17 - For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

After reading the background passages, compare Romans 11:36 and Colossians 1:16. Discuss who Paul is describing. What does this say about who Jesus is? Our knowledge of God? Our salvation?

In Colossians 1:16, Paul names four ranks of created beings. Research each of those terms. To what or to whom do these refer? Where do you see people today looking to unseen (invisible) and seen (visible) "powers" for guidance? How does this verse speak to both?

"All things were created through Him…" (Colossians 1:16b) If Christ made the physical world and called it good, how should that shape the way Christians think about our bodies? Work? Surroundings? Activities? Read Romans 1:24-25. Where can the error of loving creation more than the Creator seep into our thinking and lives?

"…and for Him." (Colossians 1:16b). Paul uses "created" twice, but in two different tenses. How or what does the shift in tenses add to the meaning of "for Him"? (cf. John 1:3) If all things were created for Christ, how should that reshape the way you view your children, your marriage, your career, your money, and your retirement? What in your life do you hold as though it were created for you?

"He is before all things…" (Colossians 1:17a). What is the significance of Paul using He IS and not He WAS? Read Exodus 3:13-15; Isaiah 43:10-13; 44:6; Micah 5:2; John 17:5; Hebrews 13:8; Revelation 1:8, 17; 22:13 and compare with John 8:51-59. How do these references help us understand Colossians 1:17? Beyond our theological understanding, why does it matter for our actual salvation that Jesus is eternally God?

"…and in Him all things consist" (Colossians 1:17b). Define and discuss "consist" and compare to Hebrews 1:3. Compare your understanding of this verse to "deism". How does it differ? If Christ holds every atom together, what does that suggest about His ability to hold your life, marriage, and faith together?

What is your "take-away" from this week's study and **how can it be applied to your daily walk with Christ?**

Perhaps the most common error people make when studying the Bible is to read meaning into the verses as opposed to discovering meaning from proper context. Here is a basic method to use when studying a verse or passage that will help you avoid this. Always begin each time of Bible study with prayer, asking God to help you understand what you are reading correctly.

1) Observation

What does the passage say?

Read the passage then look back to see what the passage is saying. Look for repeated words, key phrases, and cross-references. Think about questions that you have after reading. Allow your curiosity to lead you further in understanding.

Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? What else do you notice?
What other questions arise from the passage?

2) Interpretation

What does the passage mean?

After observing what was said in the text, interpretation seeks to understand what God, through the book's author, is seeking to communicate through this text. Context is crucial to determining the meaning. Outside resources like Bible dictionaries and commentaries can help at this point.

What is the context? Why is the author bringing this up?
What is God saying through this passage?

What is the main point of this passage?

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3) Application

How do I need to respond?

It's easy to read through passages, especially those familiar to us, without taking time to stop and think about how we can practically apply the truths we studied.

How should I live my life in light of this passage?
How does this truth compel me to be transformed?
What does it look like to put this into practice?

"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."
-James 1:22-25 (NKJV)