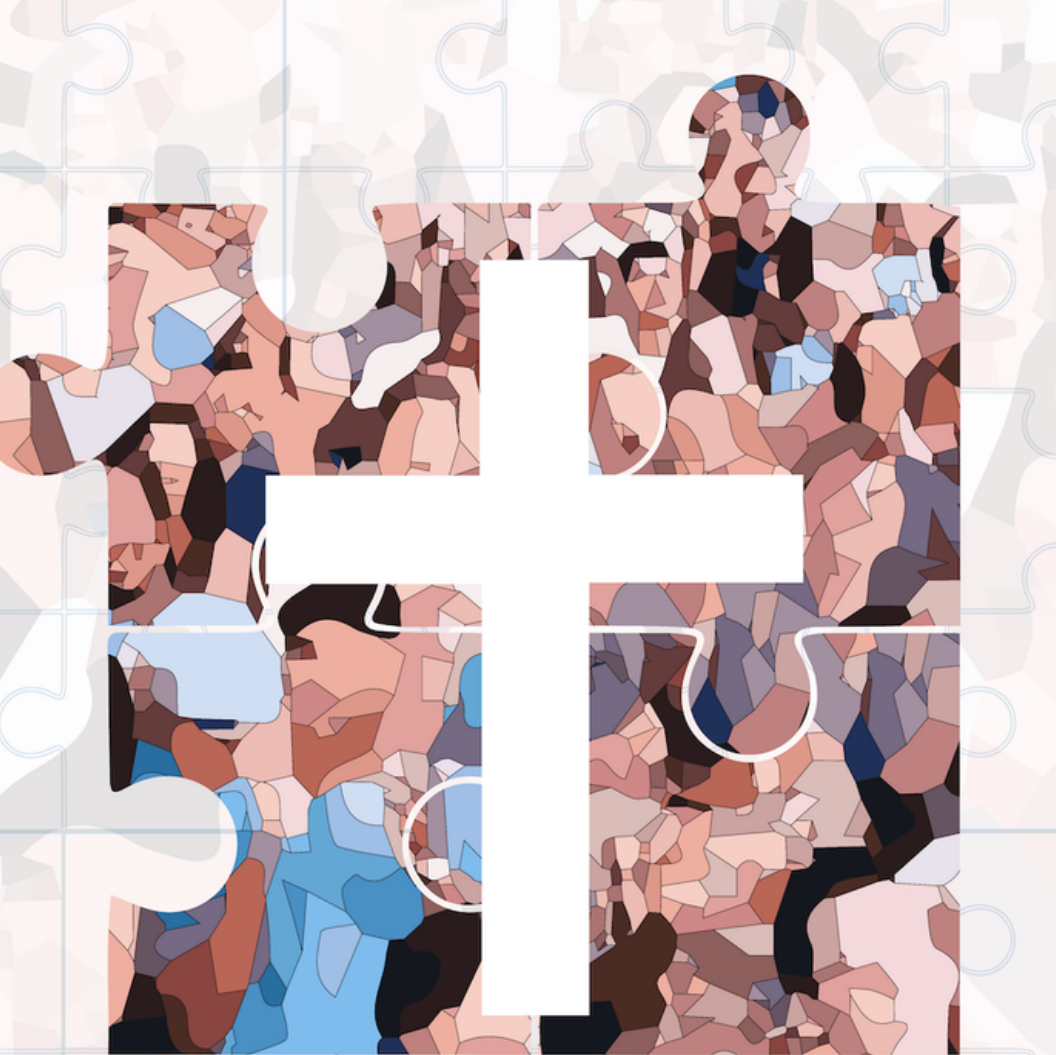




**UNDERSTANDING THE MYSTERY:
LIVING FULL IN CHRIST**

WESTERN CAMP 2024

ADULT LESSON BOOK

FOREWORD

Colossians is a beautiful letter, written by the apostle Paul, filled with deep theological truths that are profoundly practical for your daily life. It's a reminder that in a world full of empty promises and competing ideologies, the supremacy of Christ reigns above all. Paul passionately points us to the centrality of Jesus in every aspect of our existence. In Christ, you find not just a teacher or a model to follow, but the very source of your identity and purpose. It's all about 'in Christ' living. Your old self, with its sins and baggage, has been buried, and you've been raised to new life with Christ. Now, every part of your life – your thoughts, your actions, your relationships – should reflect this radical transformation. Colossians is a call to put to death the old patterns of sin and embrace a life that's marked by compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. It's about living in unity with fellow believers, treating each other with love and respect, and letting the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Ultimately, Paul reminds us that in Christ, you have everything you need. You don't need to look elsewhere for fulfillment or satisfaction. The riches of God's glory are found in Jesus. So, live your life rooted in Him, and let His Word dwell in you richly, shaping your every thought and action. Colossians is a letter of hope, reminding you that the gospel isn't just something you believe once and move on from; it's the ongoing, transformative power that shapes your daily walk. Walk in Christ. Live in Christ. Be transformed in Christ. That's the heart of the message in Colossians.

ONLINE LESSON BOOK



- 1** Understanding the Mystery
(Colossians 1)
- 2** Living Filled
(Colossians 2)
- 3** Christ is Life
(Colossians 3)
- 4** Walking Watchfully
(Colossians 4)
- 5** The Mystery Revealed
(Colossians Summary)



DAY 1: COL 1

1. The Mystery of Christ: What is it? Explore the concept of the mystery of Christ hidden throughout the ages but now revealed. Discuss how Christ's incarnation, death, and resurrection unveil God's plan for humankind.

2. Supremacy of Christ: The centrality of Christ is the thrust of this letter. Discuss how Paul highlights Christ's preeminence over all creation and how this impacts believers' understanding of their identity and purpose.

3. Living in Christ: Reflect on what it means to live in Christ. And more importantly, what does it mean that "Christ is in you" (v. 27)? Discuss practical implications for daily life, such as seeking identity, purpose, and fulfillment solely in Christ.



DAY 1: COL 1 CONT.

4. Power to Endure: Circle back to Paul's prayer in verses 9-12. What is the core of his desire for believers? What does it mean to "be strengthened with power to endure with patience, joy and thanksgiving"? How is that power different from the power of the world? How does Christ exemplify the use of this power?

5. Reflect: How does God's initiating action in our lives actually change us? What does Paul write about what it has done for him? What has it done to your heart? How does this orient our perspective on life?

Homework Bonus:

Read Colossians 1:15-23 and reflect on how these verses deepen your understanding of Christ's supremacy and your identity in Him.



DAY 2: COL 2

1. Riches: Look at verses 2-4. What does Paul communicate as being the key to reaching the riches of full assurance and understanding God's mystery? How does one obtain them? What do these riches do to us?

2. Rooted: If these riches allow us not to be deluded (v. 4), then what do they allow (vs. 6-8)? What does life look like when someone understands the mystery of God and has found the "hidden treasure"?

3. Filled: What does it mean that the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily in Christ (v. 9)? What does it mean then that we, too, have been filled (v. 10)?



DAY 2: COL 2 CONT.

4. Raised: In verse 12 Paul says we have been buried and raised to life through faith by the powerful working of God. What life? What ideas from what Paul has written describe the type of life believers have been raised to?

5. Freedom: How does this life (described in question 4) fly in the face of human precept and teachings (v. 22)? What does this life free believers to do or understand?

6. Christ: How did Christ live a filled life? It is God-like that he would not only satisfy human rules, but also live in accordance with higher spiritual rootedness. How can we too live blameless and undeluded lives according to human laws, while having our sights set on higher and deeper riches? How did Christ do it?

Homework Bonus:

Read Colossians 2:6-15 and meditate on what it means to be rooted and built up in Christ.



DAY 3: COL 3

1. Hidden: You have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. What does this mean - especially in light of verse 4? Meditate on how the language functions and communicates this idea ("when Christ appears, you also will appear").

2. Put Off: Paul is saying that your real life is no longer of this world. Our life is now Christ himself, and he is not from this world. What types of things make up an earthly life?

3. Put On: Look at verses 10-14. What does a Christ filled life look like? What stands out to you?

4. Unity: What are the natural results of an out-of-this-world life?



DAY 3: COL 3 CONT.

5. Responsibilities: Let us not be so heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good. Christianity is not a “pie in the sky” pipe dream. So, how does someone with a hidden, out-of-this-world life live out their daily responsibilities? (See verses 3:18-4:1)

Homework Bonus:

Read Colossians 3:1-17 and reflect on how you might allow your heart to be softened by the truths in these verses.



DAY 4: COL 4

1. Prayer: How are we instructed to pray personally? What does that mean in light of what we've studied so far? How does Paul instruct the believers to pray for him Timothy? Do you pray for others this way?

2. People: If we conclude this wisdom Paul wants us to walk in (v. 5) comes from everything he just taught us, how does that wisdom teach us to treat people? How does seasoned, gracious speech help us know how we ought to answer people?

3. Put On: Look at verses 10-14. What does a Christ filled life look like? What stands out to you?

3. Fellowship: What is the importance of partnership and support in the ministry? Of keeping people updated about our lives? Why does Paul include these greetings? How are these greetings consistent with what he has taught in this letter? What stands out to you about any of the people mentioned?



DAY 5: COL 5

1. Understanding the Mystery (Lesson 1): Reflect on how the revelation of God's mystery in Christ transforms our understanding of the purpose of life. How has the supremacy and centrality of Christ in this letter impacted you?

2. Living Filled (Lesson 2): Explore the concept of being rooted and built up in Christ, finding fulfillment and richness in Him alone. How have you seen Christ fill you? What was that like? What was the result?

3. Christ is Life (Lesson 3): Unpack the truth that believers' lives are hidden with Christ in God. What occurs when Christ becomes our life? Discuss practical implications for putting off the old self and putting on the new self in daily living, relationships, and responsibilities.



DAY 5: COL 5 CONT.

4. Walking Watchfully (Lesson 4): Discuss the importance of prayer, gracious speech, and fellowship in the Christian walk and how it influences the way we treat those who don't know Christ yet.

5. How has God been glorified in this letter?

6. Reflection: How has God's truth in this letter changed, motivated, and/or impacted you for His glory?

