

**Time in the Text**  
5 Minutes to Find God in His Word

This Week's Text: Colossians 1:9-12

**Context of Colossians:** Paul writes from Roman house-arrest to a church in Colossae he heard great things about (1:3-8), but never visited (2:1). In Asia Minor (where Colossae is located), pagan mystery religions taught the key to life was to find "secret knowledge" of the gods and Judaism taught obedience to the Law of Moses. Paul assures them **Christ is supremely preeminent over every world religion and philosophy, even Judaism.**

**Main Point of Colossians 1:9-12:** Paul prays the Colossians will grow in the true knowledge of God's will (not the secret knowledge of pagan mystery cults) so they'll be strengthened to live transformed lives for Christ.

**9** For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

**10** so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

**11** being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

**12** and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

The true key to life is to grow in the knowledge of God's will. (John 17:3; Hosea 4:6)

The knowledge of God can't be earned. It's a gift given by the Holy Spirit's revelation in the Word. (Ephesians 3:2-5)

True knowledge leads to true living. Knowing God makes our lives flourish like a new garden of Eden. (John 15:5-8)

Life is hard in this world of temptation! Knowing God's will gives us the strength to endure hardship and to stay patient with people along the way. How so?

Gratitude is the engine that drives our spiritual growth! The holy ones of old inherited the land of Canaan; we get to inherit the earth! (Matt. 5:5; Rom. 4:13; Isaiah 66:22). We were completely unqualified, but God made us qualified through the cross! (Col. 1:22)

**The PATH to God:**

**Praise:** What in this text makes you want to praise God?

**Admonition:** What in this text challenges you to improve?

**Thanksgiving:** What in this text makes you grateful?

**Hope:** What in this text gives you hope for the future?

**Other Helpful Notes/Observations?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Christ-Like Communication**

Equipping Christians (And Our Children) for Deeper, More Selfless Conversation

A great way to keep conversations from turning into interviews is to use the Mirror Method. Like a mirror, you reflect their questions back to them. If they ask about your family, answer, then ask about theirs. If they ask about school, answer, then ask about their school or work. It's a great way to keep it a two-way dialogue and an easy hack to know what to say in return.

"... pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" 2 Timothy 2:22

**God's Solution to Racism**

George Floyd's tragic and horrific death has brought racism to the forefront of American conversation. Sadly, racism has always been a problem because it comes from wicked hearts.

In Genesis 1-2, God created Adam and Eve. No matter our skin color, we all descend from the same ancestors! There's only one race; the human race. We're all the same race created by the same God made in the same image! This means racism is more accurately tribalism. Starting in Genesis 4, the human race split into many tribes and nations and there was violence between them! Genesis 6:5 says, "The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Genesis 6:11 continues, "Now the earth was corrupt in the sight of God, and the earth was filled with violence." Tribes were hating and killing each other even before the flood!



Tribalism didn't start in America. It's been around since the beginning of time because of our evil hearts! After the flood, God scattered mankind into separate tribes again, and it didn't take long for these tribes to hate each other. Genesis 14 describes a war between 9 kings and their tribes, with Abram and Lot caught in the middle of it! Later, the Egyptians oppressed the Israelites for 430 years. Old Testament history is filled with the rise and fall of nations, in-fighting among tribes, even among the 12 tribes of Israel! Why? "The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

Tribalism goes in all directions: white to black, black to white, hispanic to Asian. In the middle east, the fighting between tribes never stops! Why? Wicked hearts!

None of this has ever been acceptable! Tribalism (or "racism") in any direction is abominable to God and must be stopped! But what's the solution? Changing laws? Peaceful protests? Those things can move us in the right direction, but ultimately tribalistic ("racist") people will still look down on others with contempt and hate any law that tells them they can't. God's solution is not to give us a new law, but to give us completely new hearts in Christ. "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you...so you will be My people, and I will be your God." (Ezekiel 36:26,28). With God's new heart in us, we'll see each other again as one race made in His image. There won't be any more value distinctions between us (Gal. 3:28). Instead of warring against, we'll work alongside each other (Isaiah 2:4), and we'll rejoice that we can be in Heaven forever with "every nation and tribe and tongue and people" (Rev. 14:6). Racism ends one heart at a time through the gospel of Jesus Christ!

**Sunday Worship Services**

9 a.m. Lord's Supper Service  
9:45 a.m. Bible Class  
10:45 a.m. Praise & Preaching

**Wednesday Bible Classes** 7:30 p.m.

**Elders**

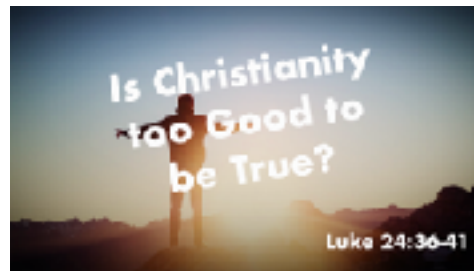
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Brian Messerli 6/14/20

Christianity sounds too good to be true, but the resurrection proves it's \_\_\_\_\_!

### 3 False Pictures of Christianity that Steal our Joy:

Living with a \_\_\_\_\_ in the rearview mirror

John 20:19, 21, 26 - "Peace be with you."

Winning the game for our \_\_\_\_\_

John 20:21; 16:33

\_\_\_\_\_ an Older Sibling

John 14:3; 17:23-24

#### 1. The Peace of Having God with Us

- **John 20:19** - He "stood in their midst." "Peace be with you" was more than just a greeting. It was a blessing they could now enjoy! (**John 14:27**)

#### 2. The Peace of Having \_\_\_\_\_ Beyond the Grave

- **John 12:31; Hebrews 2:14-15**

#### 3. The Peace of Having \_\_\_\_\_ Before the Grave

- Being guilt-free! (**Romans 8:1**)
- Being \_\_\_\_\_ into a beautiful family! (**John 1:12; 14:18; Ephesians 1:5**)

#### Questions for Self-Reflection and Personal Growth

1. What else about Christianity seems too good to be true?
2. Can you relate to having any of the false pictures of Christianity mentioned above?
3. Are there any other false pictures people have about Christianity that steal their joy?

# Announcements

June 14th, 2020

Please email all new announcements to [announcements@psd.church](mailto:announcements@psd.church) by Saturday evening so we can print them

#### SICK/HEALTH ISSUES:

- **Mary-Ann Rubright** found out the bones in her shoulder are not healing properly. This means they'll have to leave the titanium rod in for support a little longer and it's possible she may need another surgery.
- **Irene Geiger** is back home now from the hospital and is feeling much better.

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

- Our next **Visitor Sunday is June 28th!** Brian will preach a lesson called, "Why Trust an Ancient Book for Modern Problems?" You can send digital invitations via email or FB, and there are printed invitations in the back on the foyer table.

#### SHUT-IN:

- **Anne Dickson**
- **Geny Harrison**
- **Peggy Hunt**
- **Don Van Cleef**
- **Thurman and Lynna Davis**
- **Pat Steele**
- **Patsy Holt**

**Evangelism Challenge:** Grab some "Thought Cards" to hand out! (on foyer table)

