

September 5, 2021



"CHRIST FIRST: TODAY AND ALWAYS"

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COLOSSIANS 1:15-20 (ESV)

QUESTION OF THE MESSAGE: Does the "spirit" that characterized the previous generation of Harmony Hill characterize us?

TRUTH: Churches, when they get successful, experience a natural inertia; they move from mission to maintenance.

QUESTION REPEATED: Does the faith and surrender that characterized the first generation still characterize this one?

THE MAIN POINT OF COLOSSIANS: It's not about you and me.

I. WHAT'S IN THE LETTER?

1. Colossians is a prison epistle.
2. Paul had never been to the Colossian church.
3. It's a straightforward letter on Jesus first and Jesus only.

INSIGHT: Colossians is about what the God who is God is really like, and why a willingness to suffer and sacrifice for the spreading of His fame is the common thread of all true believers (vv. 15-16).

4. We were created by Jesus and for Jesus (v. 20).

INSIGHT: The primary purpose of our lives is to know Jesus as Lord and Savior, discover His will for our time on earth, and live it out.

5. Our lives and this world are held together by Christ (v. 17).

6. Put Jesus first (vv. 18-20).

THREE POINTS:

- a) Jesus IS first.
- b) Jesus WENT first.
- c) Paul says we should put Jesus first in our lives.

INSIGHT: Jesus isn't a chapter in the story of our lives; He's the book in which all the other chapters are written.

QUESTION: Is Christ simply important to you, or is He first?

QUESTION: Does Jesus hold first commitment position in our church, or is He simply one of our many priorities?

II. AM I 1ST OR 2ND GENERATION?

INSIGHT: As churches grow, they experience inertia and move from mission to maintenance.