

2026 ANNUAL VISION | SERIES 1

# Series Overview and Guides

JANUARY

## Objective

*what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study*

We create value in keeping with our position in Jesus.

### STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

—Colossians 3:17 NASB

"Paul rounds off his letter exalting the value of living out the Christian life alongside others, so that we too can keep our eyes on the biggest picture of all: Christ...Whatever shape your family, church, and local communities take, Paul's community crescendo reminds us that, just as Christ gave his life for us, so too we're made to give ourselves to others."

—Sarah Dargue

*Bumps, Babies, and the Gospel*

### STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

Value runs through the thought of Colossians:

- The believer in Jesus has value (Colossians 1:13)
- The Christian should live by God's values (Colossians 1:9-12)
- The Christian creates value in society (Colossians 3:23)

## Premise

*why we are studying this*

Deconstruction is a massive problem that influences the world in which modern Christians operate. The sad reality is that those who establish no value – the deconstructionists – are on the rise. When I began speaking about this problem twenty years ago, the outlook seemed troubled but not dire. Things have deteriorated so badly that believers in Jesus who try to live valuably are now regularly denounced. We are beset by both right- and left-wing versions of anti-value and must find a way to follow God's call in an environment that views positive construction as an attack.

### STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"For I may be absent in body, but I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see how well ordered you are and the strength of your faith in Christ.

So then, just as you have received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, being rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, and overflowing with gratitude.

Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ."

—Colossians 2:5-8

## Theme

*what the study is about*

Paul's letter is a response to news he received from Epaphras regarding the churches of the Lycus Valley. Much of the report was encouraging, but some aspects were troubling. Apparently, the Colossians were making up their own religion, which included redefinitions of sin coupled with mysticism and asceticism. The answer to all this mess is Jesus and only Jesus. Paul expects Christians to daily live out the fullness of our direct connection to the God-Man, Jesus. This will lead to peace, holiness, respect for godly authority, tender hearts toward other believers, and production of value.

### STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. He is always wrestling for you in his prayers, so that you can stand mature and fully assured in everything God wills. For I testify about him that he works hard for you, for those in Laodicea, and for those in Hierapolis. Luke, the dearly loved physician, and Demas send you greetings. Give my greetings to the brothers and sisters in Laodicea, and to Nympha and the church in her home. After this letter has been read at your gathering, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you also read the letter from Laodicea. And tell Archippus, 'Pay attention to the ministry you have received in the Lord, so that you can accomplish it.'"

—Colossians 4:12-17



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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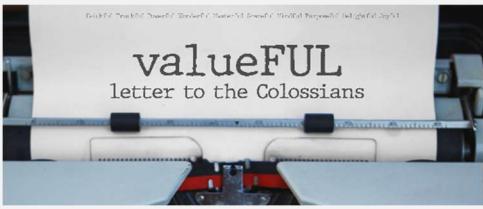
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## SERIES 2 | SESSION 1



## ANNUAL VISION 2026

## VALUE

## SCRIPTURE READING

## Colossians 1:1-2

## KEY IDEAS

## THEME

Paul introduces himself, Timothy, and massively important concepts including apostleship, sainthood, the Triune God, fruitfulness, grace, and service to Christ.

## LIFE-CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We are faithful servants of the Messiah.

## GOD'S GRACE

"Here, right at the outset of the letter, is the whole doctrine of grace. A man is not what he has made himself, but what God has made him. There is no such thing as a self-made man; there are only men whom God has made, and men who have refused to allow God to make them."

—William Barclay

*The Letter to the Philippians,  
Colossians and Thessalonians.*

## FAITH

"Faith is not the absence of doubt, but the decision to trust God despite it."

—Timothy Keller

*The Reason for God*

## PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we remain faithful to the truth.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

## Session 1: Faithful

## 1. Read Colossians 1:1-2.

- By what or whose authority does Paul claim to be an apostle?
- Based on Paul's background, what does this tell us about God's grace? (See also 1 Timothy 1:12-15)
- What words does Paul use to address the Colossian believers?

## 2. Read Colossians 2:5-8. Paul rejoices in the well-ordered—or disciplined—faith of the Colossians.

- What does it mean to be "established in your faith?" (v 7)
- What is Paul's warning to the Colossians (v 8)?
- How easy is it for even a faithful believer to be taken captive by false philosophy and tradition?

## 3. "Deconstruction" movements aim to tear down what has value; they defy objective truth and any construct that defines reality.

- How does this philosophy contrast with the Colossians' well-ordered faith?
- Have you noticed this or other philosophies and traditions infecting the church today?
- How can believers remain faithful and holy in the midst of these deceptions?

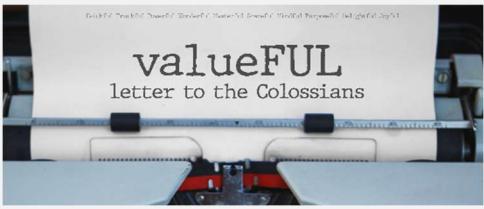
## 4. Paul often uses the phrase "Grace and Peace to you".

- Why do you think he does this?
- What is the relationship between grace and peace?
- How does understanding grace inform our sense of peace?
- Discuss the importance of a clear understanding of these two concepts in the life of the believer.



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## SERIES 2 | SESSION 2



## ANNUAL VISION 2026

## VALUE

## SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:3-8

## KEY IDEAS

## THEME

Paul deftly uses the Colossians' own experience, scripture, and Epaphras' life to launch the discussion. This is a kind-hearted way to establish the lesson on solid truth [Alethia], setting a conversational yet inspiring tone that leads the Christian to embrace biblical service.

## LIFE-CHANGE OBJECTIVE

We serve Christ.

## THE WORD OF TRUTH

"[The word of truth] means that it came from God and can be trusted. 'Thy word is truth' (John 17:17). There are many messages and ideas that can be called true, but only God's Word can be called truth. Satan is the liar; to believe his lies is to be led astray into death (John 8:44). Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6); when we trust Him, we experience life. Men have tried to destroy God's truth, but they have failed. The Word of truth still stands!"

—Warren W. Wiersbe

*Be Complete: Becoming the Whole Person God Intends You to Be*

## PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we serve in the spirit of truth.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

## Session 2: Truthful

1. Read Colossians 1:3-6, Psalm 25:4-10, and 1 Corinthians 13:12-13.
  - What is the relationship between truth, faith, hope, and love?
2. Read Colossians 1:5-6, Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 119:160, John 1:17, and John 14:6.
  - Why do we consider the Gospel to be absolute truth?
3. Read Colossians 1:9-14.
  - What signs are an indication that we are living by God's values?
4. Read Colossians 3:23.
  - How should we approach anything that we do?
5. Read Colossians 1:7-8, 4:12-13 and Philemon 2:3.
  - What example did Epaphras set of serving Christ?
  - Do we serve Jesus well?
  - What are some practical ways that we could serve Him more?



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