

## LET US FIX OUR EYES ON JESUS

## Invisible Reality

## Colossians 1:15–2:5

*Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:2,3*

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. Colossians 3:16*

**Day 1: Read Colossians 1:15–20.**

1. This section is thought to be part of an ancient hymn or testimony (similar to the Apostle's Creed). Read these verses aloud, imagining the voices of Christians everywhere and throughout the ages joined with yours.
2. Look at the various ways Jesus is described in these verses; give him a functional name for each of them. (e.g., "Creator", vs. 16)
3. Think about the quality of invisibility (vss. 15, 16). Make a list of as many invisible things as you can think of. How do we know about each of these things? According to verse 15, how do we know about God?
4. What phrases in this section testify that Jesus is fully God?

**Day 2: Read Colossians 1:19–23.**

5. What does reconciliation mean? In what sort of circumstances do you see a need for reconciliation (either with God or with other people) in your daily life?
6. What is the source of our alienation from God? (vs. 21)

7. What is the means of our reconciliation? (vss. 19, 22)

8. What is the mark of a person reconciled to God? (vs. 23)

**Day 3: Read Colossians 1: 24–27.**

9. Paul mentions rejoicing in suffering in verse 24. What sort of suffering did Paul endure as a result of preaching the gospel? (Acts 9:19b–25; Acts 14:19, 20; Acts 21:27–36; Acts 28:16) How is Paul’s suffering like that of Jesus?

10. For whose sake is Paul suffering? (vs. 24b)

11. What was Paul’s commission? Give as many details as you can discover in vss. 25–27.

12. In the New Testament, “mystery” refers to something formerly hidden which has now been revealed. What is the mystery Paul refers to? How does this mystery relate to you? (See also Col. 2:2, 3)

**Day 4: Read Colossians 1:28–2:5.**

13. Make a list of the verbs that describe Paul’s actions. How would you characterize the degree of difficulty of Paul’s ministry?

14. What is Paul’s purpose or motivation? (vss. 2–4) What motivates you in your daily walk with Christ?

15. Why might Paul desire “the full riches of complete understanding” for his readers? vs. 4 (i.e., why is wisdom so important?) What is the basis of wisdom? (Proverbs 9:10)

**Day 5: Read Colossians 2:5.**

16. This verse reminds us of the invisible bond that believers share in Christ. Think of someone dear to you who lives at a distance. Begin an imaginary letter to him or her with the following phrase and complete the sentence with your own thoughts for this person:

*For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and ....*