

NTC Discussion Questions – Week #5

Galatians

Be ready – Paul is very angry in this book. He is writing to the church at Galatia that he helped start. In his absence, some “Super Apostles” have come and are speaking against Paul and his teachings. Some of them are telling the Galatians that everyone has to follow the Jewish law to be saved. Paul’s response is...how should I say it...very confrontational.

Ephesians

- Ephesians was written while Paul was in prison...probably very near to the end of his life.

- Some believe that Ephesians was a circular letter that was originally written to be passed from church to church.

Philippians

- Paul wrote this letter to the church when he was in prison in Rome.

- Note that the famous passage in Philippians 2:5-11 about having the same attitude of Christ was probably an early hymn recited or even sang in the early church.

Colossians

- The town of Colosse was the smallest and least significant town or city to which we have a letter from Paul.

- Colossians is perhaps the most different of all of Paul’s letters. If you put them side by side it would stand out as not fitting in as much. The reason is that in Colossians Paul is writing to counteract a heresy (we don’t know exactly what) and Paul speaks in spiritual language he doesn’t use in his other letters. We get to see another side of Paul here.

The Cost of Being a Disciple (Luke 14)

1. When has a family relationship or close friendship been a hindrance to your whole-hearted devotion to Christ?
2. What are some things you are currently doing that keep you from losing your saltiness?

Made Alive in Christ (Ephesians 2)

3. What does it mean to you that your salvation moved you from being dead to being alive? How is this different than being moved from bad to good?

Imitating Christ's Humility (Philippians 2)

4. How do you balance meeting the needs of others with meeting your own needs?
5. Jesus "making himself nothing" is one of the more theological passages in the Bible. What does it say about God that He would include a theological truth in the context of a command for us concerning our attitudes? How do you balance studying theology with practical obedience in simple areas of life?

Jesus' Triumph Over Sin (Colossians 2)

6. How can these verses help you fight the spirits/thoughts of accusation and/or guilt in your life?

Ephesians 5

7. How does God say husbands and wives should act toward each other?

I Corinthians 8&9

8. Let's discuss the spirit of giving as Paul tells us.