

SERMON IN A SENTENCE

An ever deepening knowledge of the Father as revealed by Christ leads to purposeful and fruitful Christlike character and conduct as the Spirit strengthens us to continue growing in Christ.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLICAL BASIC

Total Surrender: I dedicate my life to God's purposes. *"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship," (Romans 12:1, CSB).*

Questions for Your Journal

Use these following questions to evaluate what you learned from Sunday's sermon.

Summary:

- The main thing the speaker wants me to do, be, and/or feel as a result of this message.

Application to My Life:

- What did God say to me through this message?
 - How does my life measure up to this word?
 - What action(s) will I take to bring my life in line with this word?
 - What truth do I need to study further?
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What is Christian "Hope"?

In Colossians 1:5, the Apostle Paul tells the Colossians Christians that he thanks God for their hope in what God has promised to do for them in the future. This future is described by Scripture as a "re-Creation," and the central event is the resurrection from the dead (cf. Acts 23:6). What Paul's prayer tells us is that the Colossians had received the gospel and believed it, not just as a useful philosophy for the here and now, but as a promise of God's intention to do good to them in the future.

Many have claimed that the Christian hope in an eternity spent with God makes us less than enthusiastic about making a difference in this life. However, Colossians 1 shows that this should not be the case. In fact, after praising God for the Colossians' hope, Paul goes on to call them to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord" (Col. 1:10). In other words, our hope in God's future plans for us do not excuse us from making a difference now, our hope in God's future makes the things we do now that much more important. As Pastor John Piper puts it,

"The problem with the church today is not that there are too many people who are passionately in love with heaven. Name three! The problem is not that professing Christians are retreating from the world, spending half their days reading Scripture and the other half singing about their pleasures in God all the while indifferent to the needs of the world. The problem is that professing Christians are spending ten minutes reading Scripture and then half their day making money and the other half enjoying and repairing what they spend it on.

It is not heavenly-mindedness that hinders love. It is worldly-mindedness that hinders love, even when it is disguised by a religious routine on the weekend. Where is the person whose heart is so passionately in love with the promised glory of heaven that he feels like an exile and a sojourner on the earth? Where is the person who has so tasted the beauty of the age to come that the diamonds of the world look like baubles, and the

entertainment of the world is empty, and the moral causes of the world are too small because they have no view to eternity? Where is this person?

He is not in bondage to TV-watching or eating or sleeping or drinking or partying or fishing or sailing or putzing around. He is a free man in a foreign land. And his one question is this: How can I maximize my enjoyment of God for all eternity while I am an exile on this earth? And his answer is always the same: by doing the labors of love.

Only one thing satisfies the heart whose treasure is in heaven: doing the works of heaven. And heaven is a world of love! It is not the cords of heaven that bind the hands of love. It is the love of money and leisure and comfort and praise — these are the cords that bind the hands of love. And the power to sever these cords is Christian hope.”¹

Encounter

Take a few minutes to read Colossians 1:1–14 in a couple of Bible translations. Make a note of any differences between the translations and anything that especially jumps out at you.

Reflect

The Apostle Paul introduces his letter to the Colossians by allowing them to see the prayers he often prays for them (Col. 1:3–14). In verses 3–5, he describes their faith, love, and hope as the reason for his joyful prayers.

Read Colossians 1:3–5 and 1 Thessalonians 1:2–5. What common elements do you notice between Paul’s prayers? How could your prayers for other believers reflect this pattern?

According to Colossians 1:7, Epaphras was instrumental in founding the church in Colossae. **Read Colossians 1:7 and 4:12–13. According to these passages, what was Epaphras’ ministry to the Colossians? To put it another way, how did Epaphras serve his fellow Colossians?**

Paul's prayer for the Colossians is that God would give them the knowledge, strength, and joy they need to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects" (Col. 1:10). **Why is it important to live a life that pleases God? Read Ephesians 4:1–3. What areas of your life are not pleasing to God?**

Paul's description of the kingdom as "the kingdom of His beloved Son" is most likely an allusion to God's covenant with David in 2 Samuel 7:12–16. According to God's promise, the kingdom of David's future son would have no end. **Taking this passage together, how should God's "rescue" of us and our "transfer" into the kingdom of His Son change the way we live?**

Examine

Based on 2 Timothy 3:16 ("All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"), this series of questions is intended to help you figure out what you should do or believe in response to this text. (This passage may not have a clear answer for each question. Just use them to prompt your thinking.)

1. What does this passage tell me to believe?

(How does it teach me?)

2. What does this passage tell me not to believe?

(How does it reprove me?)

3. How does this passage tell me not to live?

(How does it correct me?)

4. How does this passage tell me to live?

(How does it train me in righteousness?)

Embrace

After spending significant time with this passage, you've probably learned a lot and heard God speak to you through His Word. Look back at your responses to the previous questions and ask God to show you how you can respond to this text this week.

Write down some ideas for how you can respond to the truth of God's Word.

About **The Map**

The Map exists to help you consistently reflect on Scripture as you pursue maturity in Christ. When you devote yourself to reading God's Word, and meditate on what you read, you're allowing Him to shape your thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors.

NOTES

1. John Piper, "The Fruit of Hope: Love," July 13, 1986. <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/the-fruit-of-hope-love>



Disciple-Making Guide

Kids Kindergarten through 6th grade receive Adventure Tokens for discipleship activities completed during the week. They can spend them at the Adventure Store on the last Sunday of the month.

Big Picture Questions for Unit 2: “God Formed A Nation”

Preschool: Q: Why can we trust God?
A: *We can trust God because He is faithful.*

Kids (1-6): Q: Why can we trust God?
A: *We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.*

This Week’s Family Reading Plan

for Preschoolers: *God Gave the Ten Commandments**

Day 1: *1 Corinthians 5-6*

Day 2: *1 Corinthians 7-8*

Day 3: *1 Corinthians 9-10*

Day 4: *1 Corinthians 11-12*

Day 5: *1 Corinthians 13-14*

*Preschool readings are taken from *The Big Picture Interactive Bible Stories for Toddlers, Old Testament* (B&H Publishing Group), available at Amazon.com & LifeWay Christian Store.

Key Passage for Unit 2: “God Formed A Nation”

Preschoolers: “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed,” (Galatians 3:29, *Christian Standard Bible*).

Kids (1-6 grade): “If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, heirs according to promise,” (Galatians 3:29, *Christian Standard Bible*).

Northway’s Family Ministry uses *The Gospel Project* to help preschoolers, kids, and students grow in their knowledge of Scripture and of Jesus Christ, about whom it was all written (Luke 24:44-49).



Adventure Token Coupon

Fill this out and bring it to Bible Study for your tokens!

I worked on learning my big picture question and key passage _____.

I read my Bible at home _____.

Child’s Name _____.

Parent’s Signature _____.

30 BIBLICAL BASICS

CORE BELIEFS

God | 2 Corinthians 13:13

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Personal God | Psalm 121:1-2

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Salvation by Grace | Ephesians 2:8-9

I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible | 2 Timothy 3:16-17

I believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God that guides my belief and action.

Identity in Christ | John 1:12

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church | Ephesians 4:15

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth.

Humanity | John 3:16

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion | Psalm 82:3-4

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Stewardship | Psalm 24:1-2

I believe that everything I am and everything I own belong to God.

Eternity | John 14:1-2

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus will return to judge all people and to establish His eternal kingdom.

CORE PRACTICES

Worship | Psalm 95:1-2

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer | Psalm 66:18-20

I pray to God to know him, to find direction for my life, and to lay my requests before him.

Bible Study | Hebrews 4:12

I study the Bible to know God and his truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness | Matthew 6:33

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Total Surrender | Romans 12:1

I dedicate my life to God's purposes.

Biblical Community | Acts 2:44-47

I fellowship with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in my life, in the life of others, and in the world.

Spiritual Gifts | Romans 12:4-6

I know my spiritual gifts and use them to fulfill God's purposes.

Offering My Time | Colossians 3:17

I offer my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving My Resources | 2 Corinthians 8:7

I give my resources to fulfill God's purposes.

Sharing My Faith | Ephesians 6:19-20

I share my faith with others to fulfill God's purposes.

CORE VIRTUES

Love | 1 John 4:10-12

I am committed to loving God and loving others.

Joy | John 15:11

Despite my circumstances, I feel inner contentment and understand my purpose in life.

Peace | Philippians 4:6-7

I am free from anxiety because I have found peace with God, peace with others, and peace with myself.

Self-Control | Titus 2:11-13

I have the power through Christ to control myself.

Hope | Hebrews 6:19-20

I can cope with the hardships of life because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ.

Patience | Proverbs 14:29

I am slow to anger and endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness | 1 Thessalonians 5:15

I choose to be kind and good in my relationships with others.

Faithfulness | Proverbs 3:3-4

I have established a good name with God and with others based on my loyalty to those relationships.

Gentleness | Philippians 4:5

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Humility | Philippians 2:3-4

I choose to esteem others above myself.

The 30 Biblical Basics are the skeleton of a person being formed into the image of Jesus by His Spirit (Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18), a helpful framework for the Christian's thoughts, actions, and character. As we commit ourselves to growing in Christ through the process of spiritual formation, we pray these statements become increasingly true of us. When they are, we'll be able to carry out the biblical mandate to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27), and to truly **love, live, and lead like Jesus.**