

Seeing Jesus Series

Week of December 21: Colossians 3:1-17



Observation

1. Read Colossians 3:1-17. What stands out to you as you read?

2. What questions do you have?

Observation: What does it say?

1. What do you notice about the text? Things to look for:

- repeating words and phrases
- Answers to the questions: who, what, when, where and how?
- contrasts and comparisons
- similes and metaphors (images used in the text)
- cause and effect relationships
- details regarding: time, geography, place, people, action in the text
- grammar
- larger themes in the passage
- key words and themes

2. What questions do you have?

Interpretation

1. Take a look at the two lists in this passage (verses 5-8 and verse 12). Why might Paul have highlighted these particular elements and not others?
2. How are we to 'put to death' certain actions and attitudes and to take on others? What clues does the text give us on how to do this?
3. Paul uses an image of clothing yourself with virtues in verse 12. Why do you think he might have chosen this picture? How does it help us to understand what Paul is saying?

Interpretation

The goal here is to answer questions raised by the text and to get at the central message of the passage itself.

What did the text mean for the original audience?

How might you summarize the central point of the passage?

Application

1. In verse 15, how would you define the word 'peace' in this context? What do you think it looks like for Christ's peace to rule in your heart? Can you think of an example of this?
2. Think about your coming week. How might you perform your normal day to day activities in "the name of the Lord Jesus"? Would this cause you to do some of these things differently? Why or why not?

Suggestions for Prayer

Take time to share what stood out to you the most in the discussion and study this week. Pray for each other for God's help in living this out.