

### OUTLINE & SUMMARY

- INTRODUCTION to the book of Colossians: The letter to the Colossians battles heresy by presenting Jesus in truth. It is a key “Christological” passage of scripture.
- Ch. 1:1–12 begins by describing the work of the Gospel in the Church at Colossae. The main idea is the Gospel continually bears fruit in the Believer’s life.

### THE TEXT

Vs 3–5 • The Gospel gives a heavenly hope; heavenly hope is the motive for loving others. On the other hand, lacking faith in a heavenly hope makes us a worldly miser who can’t love others!

Vs 6a • God’s plan for the Gospel is that it be shared! It is the word of truth that came to us, as it does in all the world.

Vs 6b • It brings forth fruit since the day it is heard—meaning: it continues to bear fruit in our lives.

Vs 6c • The Gospel is the truth of God’s grace. Without grace, there is no good news!

Vs 7–12 • The Gospel is the source of wisdom, and discerning God’s will in our lives. As we grow in the knowledge of Jesus, we make choices based on what is worthy of Christ, and pleases God.

Closing: Spurgeon illustrated of the silliness of trying to defend the Bible (philosophy, apologetics, etc.) without actually preaching the Gospel: The best way to defend a caged lion is open the cage and let it defend itself!

### FOR THE GROUP

*Introduction:*

Which heresies or cults do you find most challenging?  
Most fascinating? Most absurd? Most dangerous?

Why is the Deity of Christ such a  
stumbling block for the cults and false teachers?

What has a greater attraction to you:  
worldly resources, or your heavenly hope?  
What helps you keep a heavenly  
perspective instead of an earthly one?

How did you become a Christian?  
Who shared the Gospel with you?  
How do you share it with others?

How can the Gospel continue  
to bear fruit in a believer’s life?

What is your favorite way to  
understand or explain God’s grace?

What is an aspect of Jesus’ life and ministry  
impacts you and changes the way  
you live in a practical way?

What is the difference between defending  
your faith and unleashing the Gospel?  
How and when is each approach most appropriate?