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**In Class Worksheet**

**Session 6**

***Colossians***

**In Ten Words or Less – Jesus Christ is supreme—over everyone and everything.**

*Know Your Bible*, page 78

1. As we have seen, Colossians and Ephesians are very similar in content. Why do you think Paul wrote two separate books, covering much of the same material, even using many of the very same phrases? Here are some things to consider:
2. He probably intended for the two groups to read each other’s letters. We gather this from a similar situation between believers in Colossae and another town called Laodicea, which is mentioned four times in the book of Colossians:

* Colossians 2:1 🡒 “I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and **for all who have not seen me face to face**.”
* Colossians 4:12-13 🡒 “Epaphras, who is one of you…has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea…”
* Colossians 4:15 🡒 “**Give my greetings to the brothers at Laodicea**…”
* Colossians 4:16 🡒 “And when this letter (i.e. the book of Colossians) has been read among you, **have it also read in the church of the Laodiceans, AND see that you also read the letter from Laodicea**.”

1. Laodicea is also one of the seven churches mentioned in Revelation.
2. So again: why write two similar books, expecting both of them to be read by his audience? And since both Ephesians and Colossians are part of our Bible, the Holy Spirit obviously intends for us today to read both of these letters as well! There are probably many reasons, but here are some observations I have noted:
3. Both books talk about Christ being the head of His body, the .
4. We know that the church is also called the of Christ.
5. This teaching on the marriage relationship is a of our relationship with Christ: *“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is profound, and* ***I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.”*** Ephesians 5:31,32
6. Each of the two books sheds light on the intimate relationship we have with our Savior, sort of like seeing two sides of the same coin:

* Ephesians give much attention to the , emphasizing the many blessings bestowed on her by her Beloved, who desires above all else to *“present the church to himself in splendor...”* (Ephesians 5:27)
* Colossians exalts our , showing us how superior He is in every way to everyone and everything. Christ wants us to long for Him as He longs for us.

Colossians 1:15-20 Colossians 2:9-10

Colossians 2:1-3 Colossians 2:16-19