



## OPEN IT

### SCRIPTURE

- Before reading the scripture ask: Why do you think it can be difficult to persevere in the Christian faith? What are some of the things that can decrease our motivation to serve the Lord?

Read Col 1:21-29 ESV

## EXPLORE IT

### What do you already know?

*Spiritual growth isn't just about learning new things, it's being reminded of what we already know.*

### QUESTIONS

- What are some things about this text that reminded you of something important about your faith?
- What do you already know about God that this text reminds you of?

## GO DEEPER

### QUESTION

- How does Paul describe the lives of the people in Colossae prior to coming to Christ?
- Why do you think an essential part of understanding the gospel of Jesus Christ is having the ability to recognize that left to our own devices we do more harm than good?

## QUESTION

- Why do you think it's so easy to take this fundamental truth for granted and what might we do to keep it at the forefront of our hearts and minds?

**Familiarity can breed contempt.** No matter how great something is we can take it for granted if we are not careful. Jesus himself was taken for granted by those who were the most familiar with him.

**Read Mark 6:1-6**

## APPLY IT

- If we know we must practice to get good at anything, why do we often fail to apply that same truth to our faith?

In Colossians 1:29 Paul says, "For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me."

Toil is translated as "labor" in some bibles but "toil" is a much better word. In the Greek "toil" is the word *Kopiaō*. It means to grow weary, tired, exhausted (with toil or burdens or grief) to labour with wearisome effort, to toil.

In other words, staying true to the gospel we proclaim is not just work, it is hard work. It is a commitment to being imitators of God in our day to day lives. This is what Jesus has asked of us.

**Read Mat 11:28-30**

**A yoke is an instrument of work.** Jesus is asking us to do things his way. It may not always be easy, but ultimately it leads to true rest for our souls.

As the body of Christ we gather together under the Lordship of Christ and practice this new kind of life. We take Christ's yoke upon our shoulders and do things his way.

## CLOSING

- This week, think of what drains your motivation to serve Christ. Is it possible that you are wearing the "yokes" of the world instead of the yoke Christ has asked you to wear?
- As you go about your week remember that you are a part of the "mystery hidden for ages." What an incredible thing to consider! Those who are "In Christ" are part of God's greatest work; the alienated, hostile, and evil, being made into God's very own family.