

Focus

- Do you ever struggle with distraction?
- If so, what do you do to help you be less distracted?
- When is it especially important to focus?
 - When tired or troubled
 - Or when super happy and successful
- What should be our central focus in life?

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Focused on Christ
Colossians 1:15-23
bib.ly/Col1



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A letter to Christians in Colossae

A Christian church
that was losing its focus on faith in Christ

They were also 'focusing' on...

- Observing **special foods and days**
- Trying to connect with **spiritual beings**
- Joining in special **spiritual practices**

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A letter for us as well

People who may be
losing our focus on faith in Christ

We may also be 'focusing' on...

- Hard work and accomplishments
- Being in control, or right, or fulfilled
- Seeking relationships or approval
- Seeking pleasure and happiness
- Just plodding forward

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¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation**. ¹⁶ For **in him** all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created **through him** and **for him**. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

1:15-17

Jesus is Supreme over all creation

- He is over everything, seen and unseen
- He makes the universe a symphony rather than a cacophony: chaotic, conflicting, decaying noise

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¹⁸ And he is the **head of the body, the church**; he is the beginning and the **firstborn from among the dead**, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and **through him** to reconcile **to himself** all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by **making peace** through his blood, shed on the cross. *1:18-20*

Jesus is Supreme over all re-creation (redemption)

- Only in Christ can we know and experience all who God is
- The Church is where Christ is working today

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The Big Idea

Good News

The Gospel in Jesus Christ
is the only truly good news,
and it is amazingly good!

Christ is the source, purpose, sustainer,
and destination of creation and re-creation

How can we be sure we are part of it?

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²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. *1:21-23*

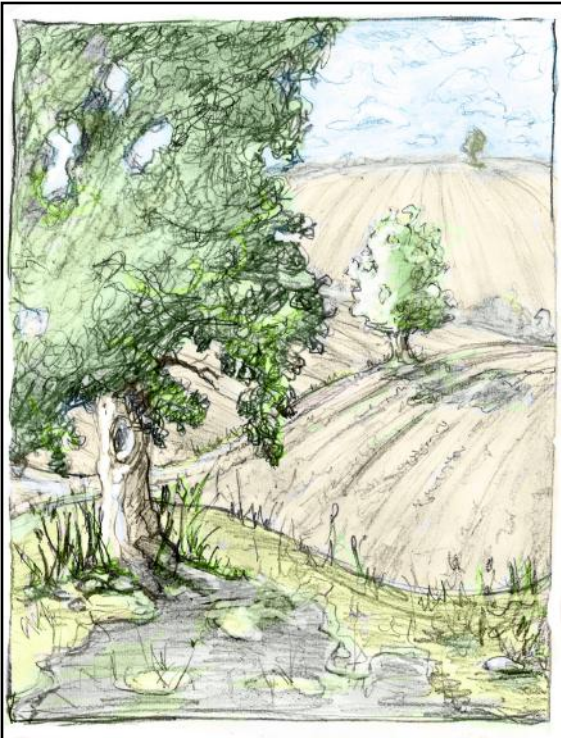
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The Big Idea

The Gospel in Jesus Christ
is the only truly good news,
and it is amazingly good!

**And it is good news for us
only if we continue to have faith in Christ**

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If we focus on everything,
we're focused on nothing

You can't look at it all at once!

When we trust in Christ AND
money, or people's
approval, or self approval,
or success, or happiness, or
control, or security, or...

**we aren't trusting
in the Gospel in Jesus Christ**

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We are reconciled
to God in Christ...

if we focus on Christ

“if you continue in your
faith, established and firm,
and do not move from the
hope held out in the gospel.”

**Where does your heart go
when in stress & trouble?**

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The Big Idea

The Gospel in Jesus Christ
is the only truly good news,
and it is amazingly good!

**And it is good news for us
only if we continue to have faith in Christ**

Growing in head heart and hands
dependence and submission to Him

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Application

Focus our faith on Christ

- He is supreme in Creation & Re-creation
 - “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (or idea, or power, or person, or self, or hope, or ...) under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” *Acts 4:12*
 - There is no other hope
- Once
- And forever
 - The tragedy of an unlatched seatbelt

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Application

Focus our faith on Christ

Proclaim the good news in Christ

- This message is for everyone!
- **Nothing else and no one else in all creation can do what Jesus does for those who trust in Him**
 - Take us from cacophony (chaotic, conflicting, decaying noise) to symphony (beautiful diverse unity)
 - In growing fellowship and peace with God and others and self and creation

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The Big Idea

The Gospel in Jesus Christ
is the only truly good news,
and it is amazingly good!

And it is good news for us
only if we continue to **have faith in Christ**

What is your heart focused on?
Where does your heart go in stress & trouble?

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