

HE **MUST** INCREASE

LINK TO
WATCH SERMON



LINK TO LISTEN
TO SERMON



He Must Increase... *In Our His Church*

Warm-Up Question:

What was your experience of “church” growing up? How did you feel about it?

READ: Colossians 1:15-23

I. THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

- ▶ Take a few minutes to describe what all v. 15-17 says about Jesus. What aspect is most amazing or beautiful to you personally?
- ▶ Do the same about v. 18-19. Slow down. Read each phrase. Discuss what it means. What aspect is most amazing or beautiful to you personally?
- ▶ How does it make you feel to discuss Christ like this? How do you think it would make you live differently for Christ “to increase” like this in your life?

II. FALSE MODELS OF CHURCH

- ▶ What are implications of a church focusing on the following more than Christ:
 1. Our morality
 2. Our prosperity
 3. The Pastor/Leader (1 Cor. 3:4-7)
 4. The Church itself

III. THE CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCH

- ▶ From v. 18, what is the “church” and what does it mean that Christ is the “head” of it? (Think about how the head of our own body works)
- ▶ Discuss the implication of v. 21 for you, and then the implications of v. 20, 22.
- ▶ Discuss some practical applications of v. 23, living “stable and steadfast” and faithful to the “hope of the gospel” that we love... where Jesus is constantly increasing in our life.

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

For Prayer Time:

- ▶ Spend a few minutes just praising Christ for some of the aspects of Christ you found amazing or beautiful in the first point.
- ▶



SEVEN RIVERS
C H U R C H

He Must Increase... In our His Church Colossians 1:15-23

Warm-Up Question:

What was your experience of “church” growing up? How did you feel about it?

READ: Colossians 1:15-23

I. THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

- ▶ Take a few minutes to describe what all v. 15-17 says about Jesus. What aspect is most amazing or beautiful to you personally?
- ▶ Do the same about v. 18-19. Slow down. Read each phrase. Discuss what it means. What aspect is most amazing or beautiful to you personally?
- ▶ How does it make you feel to discuss Christ like this? How do you think it would make you live differently for Christ “to increase” like this in your life?

II. FALSE MODELS OF CHURCH

- ▶ What are implications of a church focusing on the following more than Christ:
 - 1. Our morality
 - 2. Our prosperity
 - 3. The Pastor/Leader (1 Cor. 3:4-7)
 - 4. The Church itself

III. THE CHRIST-CENTERED CHURCH

- ▶ From v. 18, what is the “church” and what does it mean that Christ is the “head” of it? (Think about how the head of our own body works)
- ▶ Discuss the implication of v. 21 for you, and then the implications of v. 20, 22.
- ▶ Discuss some practical applications of v. 23, living “stable and steadfast” and faithful to the “hope of the gospel” that we love... where Jesus is constantly increasing in our life.

What is one main take-away you want to apply in your life this week?

Scripture Passages Used:

Col. 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Col. 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

1Cor. 3:4 For when one says, “I follow Paul,” and another, “I follow Apollos,” are you not being merely human?

1Cor. 3:5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. **7** So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.