



LIFEgroup Discussion Questions

March 21, 2010

Colossians: The Supremacy of Christ

Thankful for the Gospel

Read Colossians 1.1-11

To help us get started in Colossians I would like to pick up some things mentioned in the main text from the sermon and see the thread of that theme throughout the letter.

The Gospel – *the word of truth (Colossians 1.5)*

The gospel is central to this letter, as it is to the entirety of Scripture. Scripture describes the gospel with several phrases. Take a look at the following texts to see different descriptions of the gospel: Acts 20.24; Romans 1.9; 1 Corinthians 9.12; Romans 15.16; 2 Corinthians 4.4; Ephesians 6.15; Revelation 14.6. Discuss these descriptions.

Thanksgiving – *We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (1.3)*

Thanksgiving is an important theme threaded throughout this letter. Look at the following texts in Colossians: 1.12; 2.7; 3.15-17; 4.2. What is said about gratitude?

Faith, Hope and Love (1.4-5)

Paul speaks of these Christian virtues in 1 Corinthians 13.13 saying, *But now faith, hope, love, abide (remain) these three; but the greatest of these is love.* Take some time to look at these three virtues separately, though they are inseparable.

Faith

What is faith (Hebrews 11.1; James 2.14-26)?

Who is the object of our faith (Acts 16.31; Romans 4.24; 10.9)?

Love

Discuss these texts in 1 John: 2.9-11; 3.10; 3.14-15; 4.20.

Hope

Discuss: 1 Peter 1.4; Hebrews 6.18-19; 1 John 3.2

John MacArthur says, *One result of our hope is a willingness to sacrifice the present on the altar of the future. That runs contrary to human nature.* Take a minute and think about your children. They have a hard time waiting. They want what they want now. We all are like that most likely to some degree. Instant gratification is of the world, wanting something and wanting it right now. As those who follow Christ we are to be different.

What makes us willing to make such sacrifices (Romans 8.18)?

This is why Paul will encourage us later in this letter with what he does in 3.1-4 (READ in Closing).

PRAY.