

NMBC Small groups - week beginning 3rd March 2019

Knowing the truth of the Gospel

Colossians 1:1-14

Opening meditation:

Give “joyful thanks to the Father” using the key words & truths of 1:12-14.

Ideas for study & discussion. Select 3 or 4 questions you feel most helpful to discuss.

Read 1:1-2

1 What’s the meaning of the title ‘**apostle**’?

You could look at Hebrews 3:1, Luke 6:13, Mark 6:7 & 30.

2 Why do you think Paul pointedly said that his ministry was by “**the will of God**”?

To follow up this theme the most helpful place is Galatians 1:1 & 11-12.

Read 1:3-6

3 What are the **key characteristics** of the Colossian Christians for which Paul gives thanks?

Note similar headline characteristics in 1 Corinthians 13:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:3 & 5:8

4 What do we learn about the ‘**gospel**’ in these verses?

Let individuals/pairs separately suggest a sentence to summarise the ‘**good news**’.

5 What does ‘**hope**’ mean for a Christian? ...in these verses... and in such places as:

Titus 1:1-2 & 3:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5

Read 1:7-8

6 Make a summary of the limited but encouraging knowledge we have of **Epaphras**.

Here are the only references to him: Colossians 1:7-8; Colossians 4:12; Philemon 1:23

Read 1:9-12

7 What are key pointers to assessing the **spirit of our discipleship** in following Christ?

8 If we’re living out ‘**good news**’, why the need for **endurance & patience**?

Read 1:13-14

9 Why does the imagery of ‘**light**’ & ‘**darkness**’ occur so frequently in the New Testament?

Discuss this after asking different members to read out these verses in sequence:

Matthew 4:16; John 1:4-5; John 3:19; John 12:46; 1 John 1:5-7; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

10 How would you define the ‘**dominion of darkness**’ in our own society & culture?

11 ‘**Growing**’ is an emphasis through this letter: see 1:6, 1:10, & 2:19.

In what ways do we want to grow? Suggest what practical action we aim to take?

Prayer

Pray for fruit from all that **Johnny Pozzo & Elnur Jabiyev** have shared in Izmir, Turkey.

Pray for **students away at university**, especially any connected to your group.

Pray for **Emily Fuller, Erin & Cameron** in Kolkata, India, & **Katie Mumford** in Sydney.

Pray for our **government** in the multiplying crises in our society.