

Focusing on Jesus in a Blurry World:
Focusing on Prayer and the Gospel
Sermons # 1 & 2, Colossians 1:1-8

Main Point: *We are to be thankful to God for the hope we have because of the gospel of Christ.*

Getting to Know You

1. How is your eyesight? Share either 1. A funny story of how blurry eyesight affected you or someone else, or 2. A story of how clear vision helped you.

Leader say, "The purpose of the book of Colossians is to help us focus on Jesus in a blurry world. It highlights the absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. More simply put, "Jesus is all we need!""

Getting into the Book:

Read Colossians 1:1-5a

2. Take this quick quiz as a group, regarding the background of the book of Colossians:
 - a. Who wrote the letter to the Colossians? (see 1:1; 4:18)
 - b. Who shared the gospel with the Colossians? (see 1:7; 4:12-13)
 - c. From what prison was Paul most likely writing? (Rome, see 4:3, 10, 18)
 - d. What is the main purpose for Paul's letter? (see 2:8)
3. What two titles of our position in Christ are given to the Colossians? (see 1:2) What do these titles signify about us?
4. For what were the Colossian Christians known? (see 1:4) Would you say your group is known for this? How about our church? Why or why not?
5. What five privileges of Christ are listed in these verses? (Answer: grace, peace, faith, love, hope) Share with the group which of these privileges you most need to apply in your life right now (be specific).

Read Colossians 1:5-8

6. What is the gospel? (Leader: wait for peoples' answers before moving on to the second part of the question). Read Colossians 1:13-14, 21-22 for a definition.
7. What are some of the effects of the gospel? (see 1:5-6) (Possible answers: it teaches us the truth, it gives us the hope of heaven, it constantly bears fruit and increases, it communicates the grace of God)

Getting out There

8. In what ways have you seen or heard about the gospel "bearing fruit and increasing" in all the world?
9. How have you shown yourself to be convinced of the power of the gospel? Share a story of how you have recently shared the gospel message with a non-Christian.

Prayer

Spend time giving thanks in prayer for 1. your position in Christ as "saints" and "brothers and sisters," 2. your privileges in Christ, and 3. the hope of heaven because of the gospel.