



SERMON

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 1: Colossians 1:1-8

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study together.
- 2) It's always helpful before reading a new book of the Bible, to take some time and explore a few facts about the book. (A good study Bible, a commentary on Colossians, or a google search should be able to help).
 - Who wrote this book?
 - Who was it written to?
 - When was it written?
 - What's the situation?
 - How does this book fit into the overall story of the Bible?
 - What's the theme of this book?
 - Are there important people mentioned in the book that you should know about?
 - Is there a key verse?
 - etc.
- 2) Now, begin by reading Colossians 1:1-8 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Was there anything that you didn't understand? Discuss.
- 4) In his greeting, the Apostle Paul declares "grace and peace from God the Father" to his readers (v. 2). What does it mean to receive grace from God? What does it mean to receive peace from God? How does it make you feel to think about receiving grace and peace from God the Father?
- 5) Discuss the phrase, "the hope laid up for you in heaven" (v. 5). What is the hope laid up for us in heaven? Does everyone have this hope? Why or why not? Do you regularly think about this hope?

- 6) The apostle Paul told the Colossians that the gospel was “bearing fruit and increasing” both among them and in the whole world (v. 5-6). There are two ways to think about this phrase. In one sense, the gospel bears fruit and increases evangelistically, as new people hear and believe in Jesus. In another sense, the gospel bears fruit and increases as existing Christians believe it more fully.
- How are you currently involved in the evangelistic spread of the gospel? (What missionaries are you supporting? Whose salvation are you praying for? Who are sharing the message of Jesus with? etc.)
 - How is the gospel currently working itself deeper into your heart and life? (What helps you to know, and love, and trust Jesus more fully?)
- 7) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you’ve been learning and discussing.