



June 12, 2022

MAIN SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1:3-8

³We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, ⁵which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News. ⁶This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace. ⁷You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. ⁸He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

WARM-UP

- What stood out to you from the message?
- Pastor Kevin said, "The way we think about God affects the way we live our lives." As you grew up, what ideas did you have about God? If you were mindful of Him at all, how did you think of Him? How has that affected your faith and life?

(Below you will find the main points of this week's sermon along with discussion questions. Feel free to use, reword, or omit questions depending on the needs of your group and the time needed for prayer, care, and fellowship. Thank you for your leadership.)

Thought #1 – Paul is emphasizing some big things!

Verses: Colossians 1:3-5

- Paul begins with encouragement. Who has been the most encouraging to you in your life? Why do you say this?
- Paul emphasizes a hope that should bring confidence that we are able to grow into a faith that reaches beyond our comfort zone. In what ways has your faith in Jesus made you stronger and bolder or given you more courage?
- What is the biggest change that your faith in Jesus has brought into your story and experience?

Thought #2 – Getting it right!

Verses: Colossians 1:3-5

- How should our vertical relationship with God (Faith) affect our horizontal relationships with others (Love)?
- Pastor Kevin said, "When our hope is displaced, our relationship with God and our love for others suffer. Tell of a time in your life when you experienced this. Why does this happen?"

Thought #3 – Paul is establishing foundational truths for some upcoming arguments!

Verses: Colossians 1:5b

- Pastor Kevin explained John Wesley's method for interpreting the Word or Will of God — called the Wesleyan Quadrilateral. The longest "leg" (tool) for interpreting should be the scriptures themselves. The second is Christian tradition. The third is experience. The final leg is reason. Pastor Kevin emphasized that Scripture should be the longest and strongest tool. In your opinion, what problems arise if the other three legs become the strongest influence?
- How do you see this play out in our culture and world today? Reflect on this thought from Pastor Kevin, "Truth keeps moving when it is based on emotion and experience."

Thought #4 – Here is Paul's concern!

Verses: Colossians 1:3-8

- If we waiver from the truth, our hope waivers also. What concerns do you think Paul has

