

NAVIGATING CHANGE

Week 4: Change is Necessary
 April 13-14, 2019
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**WARM-UP**

What is the least prepared you have ever been for something? How did it turn out?

INTRODUCTION

This week, Pastor Adam talked about how we are entering a season of prayer, planning, and preparation. We are praying about places, but preparing people.

- ⇒ Share something you learned from the sermon this week.
- ⇒ Discuss what he shared about how we can prepare for our mission.

Read Colossians 1:1-8

- ⇒ How did the people in the church at Colossae prepare for their mission?
- ⇒ How did they support one another?
- ⇒ In **verse 6**, it says the gospel was bearing fruit in them. What are some specific signs of fruit—changed lives and spiritual growth—that we should expect to see as we share the gospel?

Read Colossians 1:9-14

- ⇒ These men and women didn't have a seminary degree. How did they know what to do? (vv. 9-10)
- ⇒ Explain why humble gratitude to God is important in preparation. (v. 12-14)

Read Colossians 1:15-20

- ⇒ **Verse 18** expresses a metaphor that demonstrates Christ's unity with the church and his authority over it. How does this "picture" of us and Christ help us to prepare for our mission?
 - How does this also direct our next steps?
- ⇒ Based on **verses 19-20**, why is Jesus Christ qualified for the role of head of the church?

BIBLE APPLICATION**Read Colossians 1:21-23**

- ⇒ What does it mean here when it says we are reconciled to God?
- ⇒ Paul encourages the Colossians to stand firm in the truth. What was he warning them about that could cause them to drift away?

- ⇒ What do we need to be cautious about that could cause us to drift?

Read Colossians 1: 24-29

- ⇒ Notice how Paul saw his suffering as something for the good of the church. What discomfort might you face as a result of being committed to the mission of the "body of Christ," the church?
- ⇒ In **verse 25**, Paul mentions responsibility, or a commission for proclaiming the message about Christ. Why was it so significant for these Christians, who were Gentiles?
- ⇒ Paul does not go about his work half-heartedly. Discuss **verse 29**, and then compare it with how it fits with our mission as a church.

NEXT STEPS / ACTION

The example we just studied from Paul in Colossians shows us how Paul prayed for those who were in ministry with him, even those who he had never met in person.

- ⇒ How will you commit to pray for our ministry together in Wisconsin? How will you remember to pray?

Paul prayed with gratitude. He also worked hard for the mission. Sometimes we might feel as if we're "doing all the work" and others aren't doing their part.

- ⇒ What are some ways we can take the focus off ourselves and give our time and energy wholeheartedly?

Colossians 1:13 says we have been rescued from the kingdom of darkness and we are transferred to the Kingdom of the Son of God.

- ⇒ What darkness do you see in the people around you?
- ⇒ How can you show them the hope of the light of Jesus this week?

PRAYER

Pray for the mission of the church and for this season of preparation and planning. Pray for the people who are living in darkness that God has placed on your heart who need to know the hope of the Light of the World.

