

Jesus our Centre (Colossians & Philemon)

Week 7: Jesus our Ministry

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

Our faith is lived out in fellowship with other Christians. It's not possible to be a church of one. To what extent does your growth group consider itself to be a team working as one? How might this become more of a reality?

WORSHIP

Read one or more of the praise psalms (e.g. 100, 96). Take a few moments of silence to pick out verses that you have been drawn to. The leader can then encourage people to read their verse as an act of worship and perhaps elaborate on why they were drawn to this verse.

WORD

The final section of the letter to the Colossians is in two sections. The first section contains some **further instructions** in which Paul finishes his practical advice for living as those alive in Christ, which started at the beginning of chapter 3. In the second section are some **final greetings** which in themselves are quite revealing.

Further Instructions

This section is in two parts: First, 'Speaking to God about people' (vv2-4) and second 'Speaking to people about God' (vv5-6)

Growth Group Notes

Spring 2022



Speaking to God about people

Read Colossians 4:2-4

1. What does Paul mean by, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful". (v2)

2. As well as urging the Colossians to devote themselves to prayer, Paul is also keen for them to pray for him and his team. Why is that? (v3-4)

3. What is 'the mystery of Christ' that Paul is proclaiming (v3)? Paul also spoke about the 'mystery of Christ' in Col 1:26-27 and 2:2-3, and in more detail in Ephesians 3:1-13.

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Speaking to people about God.

Read Colossians 4:5-6

4. Paul says to be wise in our behaviour with outsiders (v5). Why does he say this? In what ways can we do this?

5. Paul said our conversation should be gracious and salty (v6)? What did he mean?

Final Greetings

Read Colossians 4:7-18

6. Paul concludes the letter with numerous personal messages and greetings. What qualities does Paul affirm?

WHAT NEXT?

We know that Paul had conflicts and disagreements but when talking about his co-workers in Christ he talks well of them. It's important that we speak well of each other even if we don't always agree with each other. And I don't just mean about our fellowship but other churches as well. It's great that we have good fellowship with all the churches in Alsager because that glorifies the Father in heaven.

This is a great model for us as a church, and I pray that we grow to be more like this, loving each other as the Lord loves us, so that we may grow in faithfulness.

Put vv2-4 into practice by praying for each other in your various ministries (in the work place, with our families and friends, in our community and in the church).

Personal reflection

Paul says that the way we live our lives can have a profound positive impact on others, to such an extent that it can lead them to discover the riches of the kingdom of God (vv5-6). Is your life the kind of life that raises questions? Are your conversations the kind of conversations that answers those questions?