

Jesus our Centre (Colossians & Philemon)

Week 3: Jesus our Rock

WELCOME

Spend time relaxing and sharing together.

Can you think of a time when you (or someone you know) were willing to suffer in order to reach a goal?

WORSHIP

You could sing or listen to, In Christ alone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RCeSOY5tisI>

Followed by prayers of thanksgiving

WORD

Read Colossians 1:24-2:5

Paul's statement that he is a servant of the gospel (Col 1:23) provides a helpful link to the passage we have just read in which he describes his suffering as an apostle and its relationship to his calling (1:24-25)

1. What might Paul mean in v24? See also Acts 9:15-16 and 2 Cor 1:5

A "mystery" in the New Testament is something that had at one time been hidden but is now revealed to God's people. Jesus said to his disciples "The mystery of the kingdom of God has been given to you" (Mark 4:11), although in this verse the NIV translates 'mystery' as 'secret'.

2. What is the mystery that is referred to in 1:25-27 and 2:2-3?

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3. The risen life of Christ is the source of the church's hope. Every believer has this hope within them because Jesus Christ lives by his spirit within us. How have you experienced Christ living in within you as the hope and glory?

4. What is Paul's ultimate goal and how does he intend to achieve this (1:28-29 and also 1:9)?

5. Which of these ways has God used to help you to move towards maturity in Christ?

6. What are the signs of maturity in Christ that Paul refers to in 2:2-5)?

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The Gnostics taught that secret knowledge was the key to salvation and spiritual maturity. Paul revealed them to be false teachers because the fullness of God, that is Jesus Christ, is available to all people. Paul says, 'I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.'

7. What 'fine-sounding arguments' in today's society can lead believers away from Christ and spiritual maturity

WHAT NEXT?

Read Colossians 2:6-9

We will look at this in next session but perhaps you could reflect in the interim how you might ensure that you 'continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.'

For personal reflection

Consider where you invest your time, energy and money. What do these investments reveal about your goals? Are there any changes that you would like to make?

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