

## Christ, Our Gospel

### Colossians series – Being Christ Central

#### Overview

Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians in response to the news that false teaching was beginning to circulate and thus undermine the gospel in the church. Whenever we seek to 'add' or 'take' from the gospel we severely harm its power and must be careful to avoid making such a damaging mistake. Paul wastes no time, quickly highlighting that it was through the power of the gospel that the church came to exist. In verses 5-6 Paul says the following:

'The gospel, the word of truth, has come to you, and it's bearing fruit and growing, as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all the truth'

It is interesting how Paul says the gospel has 'come' to us, not just 'heard' or simply 'understood' but 'come'. Gospel means 'Good news', but in order for it to be 'good' it must improve our lives, indeed, we all want to have a 'better life' but to have this we must go through these three steps:

1. See our 'Need' for the gospel
2. See that 'Christ' is our gospel
3. See the 'fruit' of the gospel in our lives

- 1) Need - The bible makes it clear that we are in 'darkness', in fact our plight outside of Christ is far more desperate than we realise. We don't simply need a 'manual' for how to live a better life, we need to be 'rescued', and like one who is drowning we need a hero. Christ is our hero.
- 2) Christ – is the one who at the cross has 'rescued' us from the darkness of our sin and evil. The Holy Spirit gives us sight, to realise our 'need' and to trust Christ as our hero. We are not thrown a 'self-help manual' at the cross Christ dives in to rescue us and in the process loses His life
- 3) Fruit- It is the gospel that produces fruit in us. Bestowing such incredible value upon us we are able to live our lives free from anxiety and fear, we don't derive our value from worldly things but from Christ's saving work. Our value is in heaven with Him. Christ is our gospel.

#### Scripture

Colossians 1: 1-14

Galatians 1: 3-5

(Mark 2: 17)

#### Questions

How would you define 'the gospel'?

When did you first hear it?

How do you think 'false teaching' gets into the church? Why is it so destructive?

Do you sense the power of the gospel at work in your life?

Please pray that as a church/life group/individuals, we would see the gospel continuing to bear fruit.