

Week 1 (January 15) Colossians 1:1-14

Colossians 1:1-14

Icebreaker question: For those of you who heard the sermon this Sunday, what resonated with you most? **Verses 1-8 Introduction**

1. Define *apostle*. How does Paul greet the Colossians?
2. Paul hadn't met these believers, yet he was attracted to them. Why? What types of people are you attracted to when you enter a new church group?
3. Describe the Colossian Christians. What is the source of their hope?
4. Why are faith and love the products of hope? (v. 5) Why must hope exist first?
5. To what extent are the Christians you know like the Colossian Christians? Food for thought: Are you like the Colossian Christians? Why or why not?
6. What is happening to the gospel? (v6) Who told the Colossians about the gospel? (v7) When did you first come to know the hope offered through Christ in the Gospel? Who told you
7. What does it mean to tell the whole truth about God's grace? (v.6) (Think of the modern-day term "cheap grace".) Conversely, how does one betray grace? What truth about grace do you see in verses 12-14?

Verses 9-14 Paul's Prayer for the Colossian Christians

8. Who is praying? When? For whom?
9. What are the specific requests to God for the Colossians? What things has God done for them?
10. Thinking about the items in Paul's prayer, in which of these directions do I most desire or need myself to make progress?
11. Why do you pray? Food for thought: Are you praying regularly and specifically for anyone?

Bonus questions:

- How does what Paul prays for (vv 9-11) compare with what he thanks God for (vv12-14)?
- How does your prayer for others compare with Paul's: a) in intensity? b) in thankfulness? c) in clarity? d) in faithfulness?
- How is the fruit of hope, faith and love growing in your life: Developing well? Suffering from drought? Destroyed by the last storm? Budding? How will you (what do you need to) help this "crop" develop?