SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 4:15-18

Fulfill Your Ministry

SAVED BY THE GOSPEL (1:13-14, 1:21-22, 2:13-14, 3:3)

FAITHFULNESS THROUGH HARDSHIP

Prayers of Celebration (1:3-8)

Prayers and Pleas for Sanctification (2:6-7, 3:1, 3:5, 3:12-17, 3:18-4:6)

Prayers for Perseverance (1:9-11, 2:16)

CHRIST IS SUPREME (1:15-20, 2:9, 2:25, 3:11)

FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY (1:24-25, 2:1-2)

Grace
Evangelical Free Church

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The whole message of Colossians and the big idea of this sermon is this: Jesus Christ is supreme over all. Therefore, it is right for everyone in Christ to look up (toward Christ) and out (toward others), even when life is particularly hard. The main takeaway, then, for the Colossians and for us is to delight in Jesus and to fulfill the ministry given to us by God, no matter our circumstances.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What were your thoughts on Paul's letter in Colossians? What's the most encouraging, challenging, and convicting passage?
3. What's one aspect of the letter you wish you better understood and/or applied?
4. How would you summarize the main message of Colossians? How does Paul describe the gospel in Colossians?
5. How are hardships different for Christians than non-Christians? How have you experienced this (on either end)? Has anyone noticed you suffering differently because of your hope in Jesus (even if they didn't understand why)?
6. Do you tend to be more aware of and thankful for God's converting grace, sanctifying grace, or persevering grace? How (in concrete, practical terms) has your awareness of and thankfulness for God's grace in your life shaped your response to trials?
7. How do you tend to articulate or express the supremacy of Christ? How would you explain it to a non-Christian? Which aspect of it is most impressive to you? What difference does it make in your life?
8. What is ministry? What does ministry look like in your life? What's one way that you could grow in ministry?
9. Have you ever responded to a trial by doing more ministry? If so, what happened?
10. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

11. Put together a one-page document highlighting the gospel in Colossians.
12. Spend some time praising God for His past and present grace in your life. Ask Him for future, sustaining and glorifying grace.
13. Artistically express the preeminence of Jesus (use 1:15-20 as your guide) in a song, poem, painting, or some other medium.
14. Decide one way to grow in ministry. Make a plan to engage in a particular ministry the next time a trial comes your way. Find someone to commit to doing so with you.
15. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

16. Adoration. Praise God that He is triune. Praise God that He is sovereign, wise, and good. Praise God that He is preeminent. Praise God through Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9, and 2:15. Praise God that He is savior, sanctifier, sustainer, and glorifier. Praise God that He is faithful, patient, and kind.
17. Confession. Confess any hopelessness, despair, faithlessness, or selfishness that you've experienced through trial. Confess anything you're putting your hope in other than Christ. Confess anything you treasure more than Christ. Confess any indifference you have to the lost or the larger Church. Confess any ministry abdication and the reasons for it.
18. Thanksgiving. Thank God for saving, sanctifying, sustaining, and glorifying you. Thank God for Grace Church and those within it who have loved and served you well. Thank God for the ways He's included you in His redeeming work. Thank God for the partners in ministry you have. Thank God for giving us Colossians and the golden nuggets of grace within it.
19. Supplication. Ask God to save the non-Christians in your life. Ask God to be graciously near those who are hurting. Ask God to help us treasure and trust in Jesus above everything, and in such a way that enables us to glorify Him and persevere through every hardship. Ask God to make our church stronger in navigating difficult times in faith.