

Saturday & Sunday, September 9 & 10, 2017 - "The Power of Priority" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Colossians 1:1-14

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Colossians is a letter to a church that Paul never went to
  - He is responding to some things we don't know about
  - May have been some false teaching (but we're not really sure what the false teaching was)
  - Good for us so we can apply all of it to ourselves (much like Paul's unknown thorn in the flesh)
- The church was adding something to the gospel
  - Jesus and.....
  - We are guilty of this as well (Jesus and...hard work, luck, following all the rules etc.)
  - Colossians is written to help get our priorities in order → that will lead to all we need
- v1-14: A Prayer and a Greeting
  - Paul has heard how they love one another
  - Reminding them of the gospel = all Jesus has accomplished and all he WILL accomplish
  - Tells them how he has been praying for them
    - Good application for us
    - Pray for one another and then tell someone HOW you have been praying for them (encouragement)
    - What we pray for is what is important to us (praying for kids' popularity or character?)
    - Also, how we pray for ourselves shows what is important to us
- Paul prays for **7 Outcomes** from putting Jesus first
  - 1) Discerning - knowing God's desires for you and your life (your job BUT also how you are gifted/talented)
  - 2) Faithful - Functioning in your sweet-spot, doing what satisfies, pleasing God
  - 3) Productive - bearing fruit in every good work (v10)
  - 4) Maturing - knowing God more and more → Transforms our lives
  - 5) Empowered - The things we know we are not supposed to do end up draining us, God empowers us
  - 6) Joyful - anytime we try to get from others/something something that we can only get from God, we rob our joy - Doug Kempton
  - 7) Thankful - v12 giving thanks to the Father
- We're called to receive what God has for us
  - He has rescued us from darkness
  - In Christ we have everything we need

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. How have you added to the gospel in the past? Jesus and...what is it for you?
2. Have you ever done what Paul did and shared specifically how you have prayed for someone else with them?
3. What do you find yourself praying for yourself? How does it show you what is important to you?
4. Of the 7 outcomes Paul prays for, which one resonates with you the most? Which do you feel like you need the most?
5. How have you not made Jesus the priority? How has this been a challenge for you?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

**\*\*15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Ephesians 2 Tues: Ephesians 3 Wed: Ephesians 4 Thurs: Ephesians 5 Fri: Ephesians 6

**\*\*5 Minutes Reading/5 Minutes Writing/5 Minutes Praying**