

## Theme of Colossians: The Centrality of Christ in All Things

### Paul's suffering to accomplish God's calling to minister the Gospel (1:24-29)

Paul rejoices in his difficult calling to minister

the mystery of God

through laboring to see everyone mature in Christ by God's power.

### Paul's labor for the Colossians (2:1-5)

Paul urgently desires the Colossians

to have confidence in their relationship with God in Christ

so they will not be swayed by false teaching while rejoicing in their faith.

#### Questions:

1. What was confusing, convicting, or encouraging from this study of Scripture?
2. Why was Paul able to rejoice in his suffering? Why do we find it difficult to rejoice when we suffer?
3. "Christ in you, the Hope of glory." Is this a good summary of the Gospel? How does it encourage you?
4. What would a visitor among us say is the content of our 'gospel'? Are there things that we tend to focus on that are actually alternatives to the Gospel?
5. Who and what do you pray for? How does Paul's example in Colossians change who you pray for and what you pray about?
6. "hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love...." Is this a good description of our church and/or our community group? What things threaten our unity and how can we combat them?
7. False teaching is dangerous and destructive. How does Paul's warning change the way you think about having right theology? How would false teaching hinder people from having joy in God and assurance of salvation?