

**Colossians Series 2**  
**Christ is your glorious hope**

August 14, 2015

**I. WELCOME, 15 mins.**

Prepare a couple of simple, fun and delightful icebreakers to help your group warm up. Help your cell group members to lay aside their busyness and tiredness and prepare their hearts to come before God.

**II. WORSHIP, 20 mins.**

Prayerfully choose a few songs to lead the cell group members to worship God. The worship leader would encourage members to come before the throne of God to seek God's face, and lead them into God's presence. During this time, the cell group leader will also lead the group to pray aloud for the following prayer items:

**A. MISSION ORGANIZATION:** \_\_\_\_\_, and their needs are: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please contact the church if you don't know the needs of the mission organization.)

**B. CHURCH MINISTRY:**

- 7/12- 8/30 Cracking The Communication Code: Marriage Class
- 8/19 Bi-Weekly Prayer Meeting @ 7:30pm in Fellowship Hall
- 8/21-23 Men's Camping
- 9/13 Experiencing God: Equipping Class @ 11:30am

**C. New comer:** \_\_\_\_\_ Confirm new comers' name before the meeting.

For sick members, friends or relatives: \_\_\_\_\_ Please discuss how you may show your care to them.

**III. WORD, 45 mins.** Through sharing and discussing God's word, the group applies it to their daily life.

**A. Sharing the message from last Sunday's sermon:** (It would be helpful if you could listen on-line once again)

1. What is the key message from last Sunday's sermon? How did God speak to you through the message?
2. How would you respond to the message? What action will you take after listening to the message?

**B. Topic of the week:** Christ is your glorious hope

**Verses:** Colossians 1:15-27

**Memorizing Verses:** To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Colossians 1:27)

Preface:

God instituted the church on earth to be the light of the world shining on this generation. Yet Christians living in the world, are many times influenced by the traditions and philosophies of the world. It can cause them to have wrong or aberrant thinking and even bring these incorrect thoughts into the church, producing negative influence in the church. Therefore, the apostle Paul here especially directs his writings to address the Gnosticism of that time, by explaining clearly the supremacy of Christ in all things. As the glorious body of Christ, you and I must have the correct understanding of Christ in order for us to stand firm in the truth and not waver, and be strong in our faith to build up the glorious body of Christ together.

1. Jesus is supreme over all things (Colossians 1:15-20)

- a. Because he is supreme over all creation (Col. 15-16)

1) Christ is the only begotten son of the Father and is the firstborn of God. Yet he is not created as the false teachers were saying. Also, Christ exists even before creation because all things were created through Him. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made (John 1:3). Anyone who has seen Christ has seen God (John 14:9). Christ is the image of God. Therefore, by knowing Jesus Christ we can know the invisible God.

- b. Because he is supreme over all things (vs. 17)

The Gnostics believed that the spirit is good and the material world is evil. To them the most high God can't create this evil material world. They believed that between God and the material world there is a lower god who created the world, and Jesus is one of his creations. Paul refutes these heresies. Jesus is the Son of God and He is the creator of all things, whether

things that can be seen in the material world or the invisible things of the spirit world. All these things were created by Him. (“thrones or powers or rulers or authorities” are used to refer to the ranks of angels at that time). Jesus also used his power to sustain all things by his command (Hebrews 1:3). Therefore, all things in the universe have pattern and order.

c. Because He is the head of the church ( vs. 18-20)

The church was purchased and redeemed through Christ’s own life and is the body of Christ. The church exists for Christ and the riches of God dwells in Christ. Therefore, the church has received such a rich inheritance. We should exalt the Lord so that Christ can be supreme in the church. God through Jesus Christ reconciled to Himself all things, by making peace through His blood, which was shed on the cross. How richly glorious this is!

2. Through Christ we are reconciled to God (Colossians 1:21-23)

We once lived in the midst of sin. We were alienated from life of God, having no part in eternal life. Yet, now because of the salvation the Son of God Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross, we can be reconciled to God through Christ. Now that we stand in this position of grace, we should not let these heresies and aberrant thinking confuse and mix us up. We need to acknowledge from our heart that Christ is the Son of God and Christ is supreme over all things. We need to stand firm in the truth, live out a holy and unblemished life as a testimony so that God may receive the glory.

3. Christ in our hearts is our hope of glory (Colossians1:24-27)

a. Paul’s heart has the glorious hope (1:24-25)

1) Paul suffers yet he rejoices: Paul received God’s calling to be the servant of the gospel. For the purpose of spreading the gospel, he experienced many trials and tribulations, yet Paul did not consider them as suffering, rather he considers them as a joy. This is because he knows God, knows Christ, and has the glorious hope in his heart. This hope becomes the motivation

for his ministry.

2) Filling up what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions: Jesus suffered for mankind on the cross and accomplished the great grace of salvation. Yet Paul says, “I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions” Could it be that the salvation of Christ is not complete enough? No, it is not so. Christ’s work of salvation is already completed, only the body of Christ needs to continue to be built up. On one hand, we need to help non-believers come into the body of Christ. Therefore, we need to go spread the gospel. On the other hand, we need to live out the body of Christ, to be holy and without blemish.

b. The mystery of the gospel is Christ (1:26-27)

The mystery of the gospel had not been known by the prophets and angels for ages and generations. Now through Paul, God disclosed this mystery. For the Gentile church this was such a mind-boggling thought and a great encouragement. The mystery of the gospel is Christ. He is the creator of all things and he constantly sustains all things by his all-power command. He is the first-born of God and He is the first to experience death and be resurrected. In Christ we can also become children of God and experience the power of resurrection. We can enjoy all the rich blessings in Christ. No wonder Paul says, “I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.” (Philippians 3:8). Because Paul has Christ in him as his glorious hope, he can’t help but consider suffering as good, even to be martyred for the Lord. The saints throughout history have also held on and defended the truth because of this glorious hope. We should imitate them, to constantly keep this glorious hope in our hearts and run the race before us!

Discussion (please choose the topic according to the needs of the members):

1. When you hear the name “Jesus”, what comes to your mind?
2. Why did Paul say that Jesus Christ is supreme in all things? What do you think about this? In practical life how can we let Christ be supreme in all things?
3. What is the meaning of “For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him”? What inspiration and influence does this have on your relationship with Christ?
4. Jesus has reconciled us to God through the cross. How should we put into practice being reconciled to God?
5. Paul has the glorious hope in his heart. Therefore, he does not consider his suffering as suffering, but rather rejoices. How does this comfort and encourage you this year to be willing to pay the cost and suffer for the sake of the Lord?

**Prayer:**

Dear Abba Father in heaven, we praise and thank You. Through Paul the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations is now disclosed to us. Those who are Gentiles and does not have a part in You can now be restored in relationship with You through Your Son Jesus Christ. O Lord! I am willing in Christ to build up the church together with the saints, so that the body of Christ can grow to maturity and reveal Your glory. I’m willing to follow the commission You gave to us to spread the gospel everywhere so that more people can come into the church and together build up this glorious church. Thank You for Your grace and for listening to our prayer. We thank You and pray in the precious name of the Lord Jesus, Amen!

**IV. WORK (Pray for each other), 10 mins.**

Please break into group of 2 or 3 to pray for each other’s needs.