

Session 4: SOLO

Colossians 1 v 24-29 —Mystery made clear

Big idea:

God has revealed himself, through Christ, so that people may know him. This message must be proclaimed so that more people will know him.

Guidance on questions:

2. Paul rejoices in his suffering.
3. He rejoices because it isn't just pointless suffering. It is for God and for Paul's fellow Christians.
4. He must present the whole word of God to people—his job is to share the good news of Jesus.
5. Every part of it—Old Testament, New Testament, hard bits, easy bits.
Note: This means we must make sure that we're at a church where they teach all of the Bible—not just the nice or easy bits.
6. Christ in you, the hope of glory. They can know Jesus and the exciting promise of heaven!
7. The Lord's people and the Gentiles.
8. Gentiles have always been on the edge, outside of God's chosen people. But now Paul is saying that the mystery of Jesus' work on the cross, the fact that his death on the cross saved people, has been made known to them as well as to the Jews, God's special chosen people.
9. No... he has to make it known.
10. Instead of being enemies of God, we are reconciled, and presented holy in his sight, without blemish. We were in a totally hopeless place, and God did EVERYTHING that was needed for us to know him again. It's glorious riches because we get to know God now and forever—with nothing in the way!
11. Paul talks about Jesus so that they can know him. This teaching is to ensure that people are wisely taught and warned/corrected where necessary, so that they are presented perfect before God—so they will experience his glorious riches.
12. Living a life that is pleasing to God—knowing that we have been reconciled, and continuing in our faith, growing more like Jesus day by day.
13. No, it can't—it has to change! Our thinking, speaking, acting will all change as we become more like Jesus, who was perfect in every way.

14. He strenuously contends with all the energy / he struggles with all his energy as Christ works in him. He has to work really hard, and Christ works in him.

STOP AND THINK

These would be good questions to follow up:

Are they regularly hearing the word of God proclaimed? Do they need challenging to be at church/ youth group more often?

QUESTIONS: to ask as you meet to do Session 5 to help check understanding of Session 4

1. What is the mystery that God has made known? (Christ in you, the hope of glory. They can know Jesus and the exciting promise of heaven!)
2. How important is the word of God? (Crucial. We need to make sure we read it in all its fullness.)
3. What does it mean to be presented fully mature in Christ? (Knowing him, loving him, knowing how to live for him, loving to live for him and serve him in all we do.)