

16 January

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Colossians – week 2

 Let's hear your story

1. What would your first words be, to a group of believers whom you have never met? **(Paul starts by thanking, and praying for them).**
2. Name two areas that Paul is thankful for according to verse 4? **(He is thankful for their faith in Christ Jesus and their love for all the saints).**
3. What is the word of truth in verse 5? **(The Gospel which they heard)**
4. How does Paul honour Epaphras in verse 7? **(Paul says he is our beloved fellow servant and faithful minister of Christ on your behalf.).**

 Let's go deeper

5. What did Paul pray for the Colossian church in v.9? **(To be filled with the knowledge of His will and all spiritual wisdom.).**
6. What did Paul pray for in v.10? **(To walk worthy of the Lord, and to bear fruit in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God.).**
7. What did Paul give God thanks for in v.12? **(Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints)**
8. According to v.13, what did God deliver His people from? **(He delivered them from the power of darkness.).**

 Let's apply this

9. What dominated Paul's thoughts and prayers in verses 4 – 5?
 - Faith, love and hope
 - When praying for friends or family this week, thank God for their faith in Christ Jesus.
 - Thank God for their love for all the saints.
 - Thank God for the hope stored up in heaven for them.
 - Thank God every time you think of them.

SUMMARY:

- Colossians: Week 2

Read: Colossians 1:3 – 14

v.4 – 8; Paul says why he is thankful:

v.4; He is thankful for their faith in Christ Jesus
Faith is the Greek word "**pistis**" meaning trust, reliance upon or assurance

v.4; He is thankful for their love for all the saints
Love is the Greek word "**agape**" meaning affection, unselfish (giving not getting) love. A willingness to seek the best for another.
See 1 Corinthians 13:4 – 8; 13 and Galatians 5:22

v.5; He is thankful for the hope laid up for them in heaven
Hope is the Greek word for "**elpis**" meaning concrete or confident expectation
Faith, love and hope dominated Paul's thinking and prayers.

v.5; He is thankful for the word of truth, the Gospel which they heard
The Gospel is the message of truth.

v.6; He is thankful for the Gospel bearing fruit and increasing
The Gospel message is impacting other people.

v.7; He is thankful for Epaphras, a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf
Paul is thankful for their leader, Epaphras.
Paul encourages a culture of honour in the church.

v.9 – 11; Tells us how Paul prayed for the Colossian church:
v.9; To be filled with the knowledge of His will and all spiritual wisdom....

v.10; To walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him

v.10; Bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God

v.11; Being strengthened with all power

v.12 – 14; Paul's specific thanks to the Father
v.12; Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us

v.12; To share in the inheritance of the saints

v.13; He has delivered us from the power of darkness

v.14; Redemption and the forgiveness of sins