

## Colossians 1:1-14

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\* Leaders may like to begin (but it is not necessary) by taking their group through the background information which accompanies this study.

### Introduction

#### Sermon review...

- Are there any questions or comments about the sermon on this passage?

\* If anyone was not in church and missed a sermon they are all readily available in mp3 format on the St Mark's website

- In his sermon Jaime described these verses as an invitation into the private world of Paul's prayer life, a world where the Colossians themselves occupied an important place. How do you see this point reflected in 1:1-14?
- What can we learn from this passage about the role which prayer plays in the Christian life?
- Spend some time sharing with each other what sorts of things you are generally praying for at the moment.

#### Paul's thanksgiving, vv 3-4

- Why does Paul 'always thank God' when he prays for the Colossians? See v 4.
- What do you think is the connection between 'faith' and 'love' in v 4? (a short-hand description of the Christian life; faith in Christ, worked out in love for others is evidence of authentic Christianity)
- Does this sound a little simplistic as a description of authentic Christianity? Can you come up with a better description of the Christian life?

### **Paul's 'trip down memory lane...', vv 5-8**

- vv 5-8 are all about how the gospel first came to the Colossians. When and in what circumstances did you first receive the gospel (that is accept it and believe it)?
- When Paul speaks of the gospel 'bearing fruit' (v 6) he is referring to the change it brings about in a person's life. Can you think of one area of your life where the gospel has born fruit?

### **Paul's request, vv 9-14**

- In this section Paul prays that the Colossians will be filled with the knowledge of God's will. Why does he pray for that? (vv 9-10).
- In v 10 Paul mentions 'good works' as an expression of what it means to live worthily of the Lord. What do you understand by this phrase?
- Again and again the New Testament urges Christians to do 'good works'. Why do you think that is?

*[optional] Fill out your understanding of this important phrase by chasing up some or all of the following verses: Matt 5:16; Eph 2:10; 2 Cor 9:8; 1 Tim 5:10, 6:18; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Tit 3:8.*

- How are you going with your 'good works'? Would you say that among your friends you are a person known for 'good works'?

**Conclude by praying about some of the issues people raised during discussion.**