

*Our Sufficiency in  
Christ*

Christ Church  
Home Groups  
Spring 2024

Christ Church  
Theme Verse  
2024

*Live a life  
worthy of the Lord  
and please him in  
every way: bearing  
fruit in every good  
work, growing in  
the knowledge of  
God*

This series of homegroup notes cover the period to Easter 2024 and covers the book of Colossians which is also our sermon series for January and February. It is up to each group to decide how regularly you meet. The notes are split into 8 sections

## *1. Walk Worthy*

### WELCOME

*Where do you like to go on holiday or to find peace?*

### WORSHIP

*Think about who Jesus is and what he has done for you and means to you. Give thanks for him, for all he is in his glory and tenderness!*

### WORD

### **Read Colossians 1:1-14**

How does Paul establish his authority in verses 1-2 do you think that it's important? Who is with him, look at 4:18. What does this say about any form of ministry that's we might have?

1. Walk worthy
2. Jesus is supreme
3. Working hard
4. Fulness provided for you
5. Life given for you
6. Holiness worked in for you
7. Relationships worked out for you
8. Opportunities taken by you

What does Paul wish for in vv1-2, what does that mean and how is it worked out?

How do you feel when you are noticed and complimented? Is that's easy to accept or hard?

What characteristic is Paul thankful for in vv 3-6?

What does hope do in v 5 and why do you think this is? Is that's still true today? What examples of faith hope and love do we see in the world and the church. How are they the same or different?

What is spreading in v5-8 and what is impressive about it? Think about the command in Gen 1:28, how Paul using the same and idea, compare Gal 5:22-23 Titus 2:14? How are you expressing this today? What did they first understand? Can you remember that moment for you and the spread of the gospel in your own life?

Read vv 9-14 What is Paul praying for here? What do you pray for? Does Paul priorities help you with your own pattern of prayer and what would happen if you prayed this

way? What does it mean to be 'spiritual' look at Deut34:9, Isa 11:2?

What does knowledge lead to in v10, what qualities flow from such a life in vv10-12 and how do they relate to each other? Do you need these, does our church, our world? How so? What could we do to enable this to happen? Could you bring this to the PCC for conversation?

What is the contrast in vv12-14? Do you know this to be true of yourself? In what way is that's true for you. Do you need reminding of this? What is significant about the words, kingdom, rescue, redemption from the Old Testament? What attitude does Paul commend in v12, how can that grow?

#### WORK AND WITNESS

*Think about how you can walk worthy, bear fruit, live spiritually at home, work, with family and friends. What would that look like today for you? Could you pray for each other in this?*

## *2. Jesus is Supreme*

### WELCOME

*What is your most treasured possession?*

### WORSHIP

*Thank God for all the good things he has given you.*

### WORD

### *Read Colossians 1:15-23*

Look at vv15-18 and summarise why Jesus is supreme. What point is Paul making in using the words 'all', 'every' and 'full'?

What do you think 'firstborn' means here?

What difficulties do you or other people have with relating to an invisible God?

How has Jesus overcome those difficulties?

What is Jesus supreme over in vv16-17, how is understanding this magnified by astronomy? Who is the goal of creation in v 16? How does the science work according to v17?

How is Jesus the Head in v18 and what do you think that means in everyday life?

What is the problem in vv19-22 and what has God done to overcome it? What is the extent of his victory and how is it accomplished? How does this help you?

What do the words mean in vv22-23 and what emotions do they evoke in you. How does this relate to the needs of those who know Christ and those who don't?

What does a confident Christian look like in v23

### WORK AND WITNESS

*How is Jesus Supreme in your life? Is Jesus supreme in the world and work the church and parish? Do we make him so, or who him to be so?*

### *3. Working Hard*

#### WELCOME

*What goal and been compelling enough to make you want to suffer for it in some way?*

#### WORSHIP

Praise Jesus for calling you into his service that give freedom and having a purpose to work for his glory in his church and world.

#### WORD

#### **Read Colossians 1:24--2:5.**

What goal has been compelling enough to make you want to suffer for it in some way? What do you think of as holiness or a holy person?

How does Paul describe God's commission to him in 1:24-29? What does Paul say is lacking and what is he 'filling up'? Does this strike you as odd and what do you think Paul means?

What is the mystery that Paul talks about in vv26-27, 2:3-3? Why do you think he calls it a mystery? Why would this have startled people both then and now?

Think of the description of Christ in the last two studies in all his glory, think about where Christ resides, what emotions thoughts and actions does this evoke in you?

What is Paul's goal in v1;28-29 and how does he achieve it? How is that a model of leadership ministry and whole church ministry? What can we do to enable it? Is it just the Rector's job?

What are the marks of maturity in 2:2-5 and how do you see them developing on your own life and life of our church?

Why is it so important for the Colossians and for us to understand that the gospel provides everything? Where does knowledge and wisdom reside and what do you think that means for us and our society?

#### WORK AND WITNESS

*What fine sounding arguments lure us away from Christ today and hinder our maturity?*

## *A. Fulness Provided for you*

### WELCOME

*What would need to make you feel fulfilled?*

### WORSHIP

*Thank God for his provision in your life and those whom you love!*

### WORD

### **Read Colossians 2:6-23**

What does v6 tell us to do? What do you think that means?

How do the images in v7 help us to understand our life in Christ? How would overflowing with thanksgiving change your daily life?

What is the heresy in v8 and what do we learn about it?

What does Paul say in vv 9-10 that would protect his readers from deceptive ideas?

What does Paul outline in vv11-15 and what basic needs does these ideas meet in us?

What did Jesus have to do to take care of our sinful nature in vv11 as well as our sins in v13? Is this a new idea to you, is it helpful? How does this help holiness?

What is mentioned in v14 and how does Paul describe it? What do you think it may be? How does being released from it help you?

What is the triumph in v15 and who is defeated, look at Eph 6:12. How does this help us in our 'spiritual' cultural? Where is true spirituality to be found?

Read vv16-23 what is mentioned and how is the reality to be found in Christ? What is the appeal of such shadows even now and in your own life? Why are they useless? How does this change your view of what is 'holy'?

### WORK AND WITNESS

*Pray for God holiness to be seen in your own life and witness and our church.*

## *5. Life Given to you*

### WELCOME

*What makes you smile when you think of it? What gives to a sense of excitement in life?*

### WORSHIP

*Praise God for his Holiness the One before whom all people will cry 'Holy Holy Holy'*

### WORD

#### **Read Colossians 3:1-11**

What are we to look at and what are we to think of in vv1-4? What do you think Paul means? Is that's hard for you to do? How can we help each other to do this?

What do v3 and 5 have in common? Are they a contradiction? Remember 2:11 how does this help? Is there a difference between what we are and how we act?

What do the things we put to death have in common in v5?

Have you ever had another pudding? What does Paul say in v5-7? Why do you think he makes this connection between food and idolatry?

What image does Paul use in vv 8-10? What effect do these actions and attitudes have on you and others when you fallen back into them?

What hope do we have in vv9-11? Do you find this helpful if so, how? How is this better than trying harder?

What are the divisions that Paul mentions in v11, how do we see them in our society, family and in our church if at all? What can we do to help and heal?

### WORK AND WITNESS

*How do Paul's injunctions in vv 5-11 help us to live out the command on vv1-4? Can you see how practical this is to be so heavenly minded?*

## 6. *Holiness worked in You*

### WELCOME

What rules and obligations or uniform do you need to belong to an organisation?

### WORSHIP

Praise God for calling you to belong to his family and express thanks for his grace and mercy.

### WORD

### Read Colossians 3:12-17

Why does Paul begin by remind his readers of what they are in God's sight v12?

Why is this description not dependent on human effort and feeling look at 1:12-14, 2:9-10?

What is described in v12 that we must put on? How does these things make us distinct in our culture?

What does Paul address in v13-14 and how are they to be handled? Is this different from how the world acts? How would things be if peace ruled (literally acted like an umpire)?

What does Paul say in v16? Compare it to Eph 5:18-20, how are these two things complementary have a look at Eph 6:17

What is happening v 16 and who is addressed? What does this say about how we worship and our own individual responsibility in worship.

What is commended in v16-17 that causes Paul command it in three different ways? Do you think this is important if so why?

According to v17 how should we live moment to moment? Is this possible how could we encourage this in each other?

### WORK

*'From heaven Christ uses Christians as his mouth, his hands, his feet, even his smile.'* (Jim Packer in 'Keep in step with the Spirit') In what ways can you do these things for one another?



## *7. Relationships worked out by you*

### WELCOME

*What is the best thing that someone else has ever done for you?*

### WORSHIP

*Praise God for times when you have been aware of him being at work in your life through other people.*

### WORD

### **Read Colossians 3:18-4:1**

What attitudes have you seen in a family or at work that you would describe as Christian?

What do you think of Paul's commands in these verses? How are they opposed to what the world thinks?

What does Paul command to wives in 18 and who is the focus? How is that different from cultural norms in Paul's day and ours? What would this submission look like? What would it not include? Do you think it is applicable today?

What is the husband to do in v19? What is he not to do? Is this applicable today?

Do you think these commands are conditional or unconditional? Are there any exceptions? In light of your answer, why do you think this?

What is the command to children in v20? What do you think of this command? Again, is it conditional or culture bound? How would this go down in parenting classes?

What are Fathers told not to do in v21? Does this depend on the culture? How do Fathers do this? How are they to take the lead on correcting this?

How could these verses help families?

What are Paul's commands to slaves v22-25? How would have slaves heard this? What would their reaction be? How is this similar or dissimilar to workplace situations today? How would those who are oppressed across the world hear this today?

#### WORK AND WITNESS

What is Paul's command to Master in 4:1? Is this something that needs to be heard today? What difference would it make in our workplaces, homes, schools, churches etc? Who is the ultimate master? How does this change all things?

## *8. Opportunities taken by you*

#### WELCOME

*How productive are you? Do you procrastinate? What spurs you on or makes you feel apathetic?*

#### WORSHIP

*Thank God for the purpose he has given you in life by being you! By being what he has remade you in Christ, for the gifts he has given you.*

#### WORD

### **Read Colossians 4:2-18**

What does Paul say we should do in v2 and what should be our commitment? Based on what we have read in our previous studies in what are we to be thankful and watchful for?

What is the significance of the phrase 'the mystery of Christ' (compare Col 1:27)?

What does Paul ask for in vv3-4? Why do you think he prays for these things? What can this say to us when we found ourselves in situations that's we don't like?

What advice does Paul give about the way to live and speak with those who are in our families, in our parish and community in vv5-6? How is this scary or helpful?

What is the character of our speaking and life to be in v6? What is the point of the metaphors that Paul uses? What do you think this would look like in practise? What kind of reaction would this evoke in other people?

What qualities and virtues does Paul give thanks for in vv7-18. How are they seen in our church. In your own life, in those close to you? Do you give thanks for them? How we are part of a community? Is there a temptation to go it alone, with, 'me and my faith'?

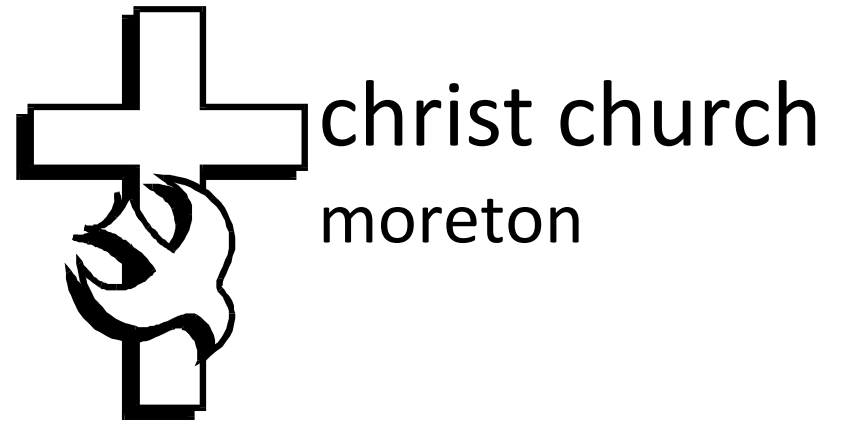
What impresses' you about Epaphras' prayer in v12? How is this a summary of the letter?

What is encouraging about Mark in 10, see Acts 2 Tim 4:11, and a warning about Demas in 14, see 2 Tim 4:10?

#### WORK AND WITNESS

How do you need to hear and respond to the command of verse 17, compare Phil 1:6? How has this letter enabled you to do this more and more? Prayer for all God's people that they may hear receive and know this in their own lives.

NOTES



making disciples  
growing disciples  
being disciples