

Growth Group Questions – Week 10

Introduction Questions:

- How are you doing?
 - [This question will always be here – it’s optional, but may help bring the passage back to mind if you meet later in the week] - If you heard the sermon this week, was there any part of the message or scripture passage that was particularly important or meaningful to you? If so, what?

Read: Colossians 3:17:-4:18

Understanding Questions:

- Why do you think Paul includes commands about how one treats one’s family, neighbors, and those under one’s authority within a letter about the Gospel of Christ? How does he say we should act?
- What does Paul mean by asking that God would open a door for the word [Col 4:3]?
- Why does Paul keep referring to the “mystery of Christ? [Col 4:4].” What does this mean?
- What do you think being “seasoned with salt” means? [Col 4:6]. Why would this have been a fitting analogy for what Paul is trying to convey?
- Why do you think Paul mentions so many different people by name at the end of his letter? Do you think Paul was concerned that they wouldn’t welcome Aristarchus? [Col 4:10]

Application Questions:

- Paul says that Epaphras is “always wrestling with prayer” on behalf of the Colossians [Col 4:12]. What do you think this means? What prayers do you wrestle with?
- Why did Paul have to remind the Colossians about treating their servants fairly and justly? What does reading Scripture help you to be reminded of and in what ways do you see it change the way you live your life? How does faith in Christ affect your family relationships?
- The other Christians in prison with Paul clearly seem to be a comfort to him. How do your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ comfort you? In what ways do you feel you are best at comforting others?
- How is God opening a door for you to share with others what God has done for the world through Jesus Christ [Col 4:3-4].

Additional Notes:

- For more on the mystery of Christ, refer back to Colossians 1:26-27. The mystery of Christ refers to God's hidden plan of salvation. Paul claims that God's secrets have been fully revealed in Christ's life, death, and resurrection, rather than through the secret traditions of false teachers.
- In the ancient world, there were instructions that established proper conduct for the members of a household – for wives and husbands, children and parents, and slaves and masters. Here they are being modified by Paul for Christian households, so that love for each other and the Lord become the guiding values for family life. See also Ephesians 5:21-6:9
- On making "the most of the time," as mentioned in Colossians 4:5, see also Ephesians 5:16
- Paul mentions the names of several coworkers in the gospel in the final greetings of the letter. Onesimus [4:9] was a slave who became close to Paul while they had been imprisoned in Colossae. Luke, the beloved physician [4:14], may be the same Luke who has been considered the author of both the Gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.
- When Paul concludes the letter at the end by saying he is writing it with "his own hand," it may suggest that the apostle wrote the final greeting in his own hand, while a scribe wrote down the rest of the letter. This was a common practice in ancient times.