

Colossians 1:1-8 Bible Study - *What is the central ingredient of Christian Mission?*

In the letter to the Colossians, Paul is writing to a church of relatively new believers that he has never met (2:1). Yet he knows that they are true believers in Jesus Christ from his fellow Gospel worker Epaphras (1:7-8). So Paul writes to tell them to stand firm in what they have believed (1:23), because there are those who would try and tell them that the Gospel isn't enough (2:4, 8). In today's study we are only focusing in on the first 8 verses, and yet they are a wonderful reminder of what it means to be a follower of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and what this means for Christian Mission.

A strong and reassuring greeting Col 1:1-2

- 1) How does Paul introduce himself (v1)?

- 2) How does Paul describe the Colossian believers (v2)?

Delving deeper – What names or terms do we (and should we) use for our fellow believers in Christ at CBC?

Hallmarks of a Christian Col 1:3-5a

- 3) How often did Paul and those with him pray for the Colossians Christians? (Col 1:9)

- 4) Why do Paul and those with him give thanks for the Colossian Christians?

- 5) What is the hope stored up for you (believers) in heaven? (Col 3:1-4)

Delving deeper - If our life is secure with Christ as those who have put our faith in Jesus, what effect should this have on our prayer life?

The Centrality of the Gospel Col 1:5b-8

- 6) What did the Colossians Christians hear and who did they hear it from?

- 7) Why do you think Paul uses the term 'true message of the gospel'?

- 8) So what is the Gospel? (1 Cor 15:1-5)

9) What does it mean that the Gospel bears?(1:4-5)

10) If the Gospel is 'bearing fruit and growing around the whole world', why and how does this happen? (Rom 1:16, Matt 28:18-20, Rom 10:14, 17).

11) What then is the central ingredient of Christian Mission and when is Christian Mission not Christian Mission?

Delving Deeper – Have you ever thought about going into Christian mission in Australia or beyond? Why would you / or wouldn't you go?