

GOD'S TRANSFORMATIONAL WORK IN US WORKS!

As a group, read Colossians 1:9-20.

One of the primary reasons the Apostle Paul wrote this letter was because the Colossian believers were being influenced by teachings that devalued Christ. Paul countered this threat by praying for the believers (1:9-12), reminding them what Jesus accomplished (1:13-14), and then describing who Christ is (1:15-20).

For Discussion:

Written prayers such as Paul's can be very powerful. Why is that?

What are some of the influences that devalue the preeminence of Jesus Christ today in our society? How are these influences dangerous to our Christian walk?

Read John 17:20-26

For Discussion:

In this prayer Jesus prays not only for His disciples but also for "all those who will believe."

Discuss the importance of such phrases as "I in them" and "that the world may know."

When unbelievers see Jesus Christ in common, ordinary people like us, who gets the glory? Why?

What do you think...does understanding "Christ in us" have any connection with our call to "be the church?"

Greg shared in his message that there was a time when he hesitated to go out and "be the church in the world" because he thought he needed to grow more spiritually first. Then God convicted him that he needed to *go*, then he would *grow* (spiritually). Can you relate to that? What's been your experience?

Just prior to prayer time reflect on Jesus' words: "You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should abide: that whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you." John 15:16

Remember, Jesus has given us power of attorney to go and to do all things *in His Name*.