

The Power of the Gospel & the Response

C O L O S S I A N S 1 : 3 - 1 4

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3 RESPONSES

of one changed by the power of the Gospel:

1) Thankfulness for Salvation (Col.1:3-8)

1. Faith in Christ
2. Hope Laid in Heaven
3. Love one another

2) Praying for Christian Growth (Col.1:9-12)

1. Grow in knowledge
2. Walk in a worthy manner
3. Posses His power

3) Praising Christ for His being (Col.1:13-14)

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

Q1. (Colossians 1:5-6) Paul glorifies the gospel, the good news. What words does he use to describe the action of the gospel in verses 5 and 6? Given the temptation the recipients have to adopt another religious philosophy, why do you think he reminds them of the world scope of the gospel's influence? What happens in our day when a church becomes embarrassed or unimpressed with the gospel message? How does this affect the church?

Q2. (Colossians 1:9-12a) What are the elements of Paul's prayer for the Colossian believers? What are the seven or eight specific results that he prays will be produced in their lives? Which of these are most important in a Christian disciple? Which, do you think, are least important? What happens when some are missing?

Q3. (Colossians 1:12-13) Why does Paul use the terms darkness and light to portray his readers past and future? Why does he remind them where they came from? What is "the inheritance of the saints in light" that he mentions? In verse 13 we find two terms used of governing bodies? How are they contrasted in verse 13? In what sense are subjects "governed" in each?

Q4. (Colossians 1:12-13) What are the three or four action verbs in verses 12 and 13 that paint a picture of salvation? Who performs the action? Who is it performed on? In what way were we "qualified/enabled/made meet"? In what way were we "rescued" or "delivered"?

Q5. (Colossians 1:13-14) What are the two qualities mentioned in verse 14 that characterize the "kingdom of his beloved Son"? What did the idea of redemption mean in the Greek? In what way did Christ "redeem" us? What is the significance of the fact that our sins are forgiven in this kingdom?

Q6. (Colossians 1:18) How should the assertion that Jesus is the "head of the body, the church" affect the way we conceive of the church? Is he talking about the universal church or a local congregation, or both? If we believe that Jesus is the head of the church, how should that affect the way we "do church"? In what ways does the visible church represent the "head"? How well do we do it?