**BCM Bible Study –Jan 19-20, 2022**

**Colossians 1:1-14**

The letter of Colossians was written by Paul, while he was imprisoned, to the church at Colossae, which interestingly enough he had never visited. It seems like Epaphras visited Paul in prison to tell him of the progress of the gospel in the region of Colossae, and also to get his advice on dealing with false teaching he was encountering. This is a letter written out of love and concern for the church of Colossae and trying to make sure they understand the truth of the Gospel.

Where have you seen false teachings like this impact modern-day churches?

* How have you seen leaders attempt to correct them?

Introduction: **Colossians 1:1-2**

* What do you learn about this letter from the introduction? About Paul?
	+ What is the significance of Paul referring to himself as “an apostle of Christ by the will of God,”?
* How does the tone of this brief introduction prepare you for the rest of the letter?
* Paul does much work to remind the people of their ultimate identity in Christ and what that means for them now. If someone began a correction to you with this, how do you think that you would respond?

Thanksgiving: **Colossians 1:3-8**

* What are the three specific things that Paul thanks the Lord for here?
* Paul seems to really hone in on the terms of faith, love, and hope; attributing the three terms to the Colossians. How does the presence of all three of these add to your understanding of the Colossian church and how they followed Jesus?
	+ Which one of these words would you most associate with yourself and your personal relationship with Jesus? Why?
* Epaphras is a significant figure in the course of this letter’s writing. Let’s look at a few other references to him: **Read Colossians 4:12 & Philemon 23.**
	+ How does the multiplicative nature of faith here impact how you view your life?
* Who is somebody that causes you to praise and thank God for his work in their life?
* How has the gospel been “bearing fruit” (v6) in and around you lately?
	+ Are there any places nationally or internationally where you know that the gospel has been bearing fruit?

Paul's Prayer: **Read Colossians 1:9-14**

* Is it surprising to you that Paul’s prayer for the church at Colossae is about knowledge and conduct? Why?
	+ Why does Paul make sure to pray for them in this order? What benefit does this have for the Church?
* What do you think of the way Paul prays for the believers in Colossae here? How does it compare to the way you pray for people?
	+ Would any of Paul’s prayers here be too high of a standard or unattainable?
* How does Paul contrast life with and without Christ in v12-14?
* Even though Paul has not met any of these people, he does seem to have such a deep, honest care for them. How can we seek to cultivate a similar heart for believers around the world?
* Which of the things Paul prays for the Colossians here would be most meaningful for somebody to pray for your life right now?

**Challenge**: Over the next week, use Colossians 1:9-14 as your prayer model. Spend time praying for your family group, friends, other believers, family, etc. from this passage. **OR** Spend time praying that God would help you grow in each aspect of faith, love, and hope.