

Colossians 1:3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

PREEMINENCE PRINCIPLE #1: Putting Jesus First involves continually learning and believing His Gospel

WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

The Gospel is the good news that God has solved humanity's biggest problem-alienation from Him due to our sin and His holiness-through His Son Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL TRUTHS

1. The Gospel is TRUE

Colossians 1:5-6 Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you...

2. The Gospel is a message to be PROCLAIMED AND HEARD

Colossians 1:5-6 Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you ...

3. The Gospel is intended to be SPREAD all over the world **Colossians 1:5-6** ... the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing ...

4. The Gospel 'bears fruit' in those who HEAR AND **UNDERSTAND** it

Colossians 1:5-6 ... the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing-as it also does among you, since the day you heard it ...

5. The Gospel is GOOD NEWS about God's grace

Colossians 3:6 ... since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth.

6. Faithful ministers of Christ help people LEARN THE GOSPEL

Colossians 1:7 ... just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf...

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE

Colossians 1:3-8

Read verse 1 – Who are five people you can "thank God" for, and how can you pray for them this week?

Read verse 5 – In your own words, explain "the Gospel", or the Good News of Jesus Christ

Read verses 5 and 6 - Who are three people you know "in the world" who need to hear about Jesus?

- □ Sunday: 1 Peter 2
- **BIBLE READING PLAN**
- Monday: 1 Peter 3
- □ Thursday: 2 Peter 1

- Tuesday: 1 Peter 4
- Friday: 2 Peter 2
- Wednesday: 1 Peter 5
- □ Saturday: 2 Peter 3 Sunday: Isaiah 1
- Steve Benninger, Lead Pastor New Life Church, Gahanna/Feb. 4 & 5, 2012