

simple.

a study through Colossians

Simple. Spirituality Made Simple (Colossians 2:6-23)

1. If you were asked to explain the hope you have in Jesus, or, to define Christianity, or, to express how Jesus is different to other 'gods', how would you do it? Discuss.
2. How, do you think, based on what we have studied so far in Colossians, might Paul answer question 1.
3. Are there any words, phrases or concepts which stand out, challenge or confuse you in our text today? Break the text into two parts (verses 6-15 and verses 16-23). Discuss.
4. In verses 6-15, what do you think Paul's big message is?
5. How does Paul's word picture in verses 6-7 give you hope? In your journey of faith, how are you ensuring your roots go deep and that your branches are fruitful (built up)?
6. Are you overflowing with thankfulness (v7)? Why? Why not?
7. Can you think of any contemporary examples of '*hollow and deceptive philosophies*' (v9)? Is philosophy only bad? Has there been a time in your life when you have subscribed to 'human tradition' rather than relying 'on Christ'?
8. Read verses 9-15 again. Pick out and discuss some of the mind-blowing realities which Paul describes. For each one, express how this Truth is transformational.
9. In 1 John 4:4, the writer says, '*He that is in us is greater than he that is in the world*'. Would Paul agree from what he says in Colossians? Can you think of other Scriptures which back up your thinking (e.g. from Romans)? If right, what power does sin/Satan have in our lives if we are 'in Christ'?
10. In verses 16-23, Paul challenges his hearers to step out of the shadows and into the substance. What's his point and is there a contemporary application? Don't forget that verse 16 starts with 'therefore', so all that's been said in verses 6-15 should underpin your response(s).
11. Spend some time praying together using Paul's 'rooted tree' word picture in verses 6-7.