

## **Connect Group notes 17.3.25**

Chris continued the new series called 'Thrive' on Sunday.

Read Colossians 1:15-20 and 27-29.

The overall theme was that if Jesus is at the centre of our lives then we will thrive. Paul chooses not to berate the Colossae church who were infiltrated with false teachers, instead helps them to understand the *supremacy* and *sufficiency* of Christ.

When we uplift Jesus all else fades away.

Paul is passionate that this church won't just survive, but come out stronger (thrive). However this is not automatic. He has to struggle for them, pray for them and write to them. He exhorts them to make Jesus the focus of their attention "*Christ in you, the hope of glory*" Col 1 :27

### **Discussion points**

1. - How is the encouragement to make Jesus the centre of our lives so countercultural by today's standards?
  - What are our culture's messages about looking after number one?
  - What do we think motivates self-centredness and ensuring, through our own efforts, that we have everything we need to feel secure?
  
2. – Where don't we allow Jesus to hold centre stage in our lives (particularly in places we may not have considered?)
  - What kinds of things prevent us from giving Jesus full control and supremacy in our lives?
  
3. - How can we start – or continue – to allow Jesus to be centre stage of our lives? Discuss as a group practices you may have found helpful for this, to encourage each other.
  - What does it mean to strenuously contend for growth in our lives, and in our prayers for others, while depending on power from Jesus? Colossians 1:29

4. Colossians 1:15-20 tell us who Jesus is – *he shows us what Father God is like, everything is created through him, and all things are held together because of him, he is the head of the body and all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in him. He has reconciled us to himself.* Then verse 27 tells us he lives in us!

Chris described the meaning of the word ‘you’ here (‘Christ in you’- plural), that *collectively* we experience God’s glory, that together as his body we strengthen each other and carry the hope of Christ.

What we do affects each other.

- How does this impact our understanding of being in a faith community rather than going it alone?
- What does this say about our different giftings and callings?
- How does this help us encourage those who don’t want to be part of a faith community?

### **Prayer and Application**

- Consider what allowing Christ supremacy in our lives might mean for us individually?
- Ask God to show us an aspect of our life where we can allow him the supremacy he may not have.
- Pray for friends and family following God without feeling the need to be part of a faith community. Ask that God would show them the purpose for joining with other believers not only for their own benefit but for the strengthening of the whole body.