

## **Connect Group notes 9.3.25**

Chris began a new series on Sunday called 'Thrive' – a journey through the book of Colossians.

The Colossae Christians were being tempted to drift away from the truth that Jesus is all sufficient, towards mistruths that he is not God, towards the worship of angels, and the belief that some Christians were able to obtain special knowledge superseding Jesus.

Paul did not argue the point – he just pointed them to Jesus.

In Colossians we see the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus and that “in him lie all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” Col 2:3

*The word 'thrive' captures all the fullness of living in Christ.*

### **Discussion points**

1. Chris commented that thankfulness is one of the keys to a thriving life in Christ, and can be used as a weapon against the enemy.
  - How does the spiritual atmosphere of our hearts change as we give thanks?
  - How can we use thanks as a weapon?
  - Even if life is really tough in certain seasons, how can we cultivate thanks for what we have in Jesus – (in spite of our feelings or circumstances?)
2. Chris talked about the aspects of faith, hope and love – evidence of a thriving church - and that if Paul had a logo for the early church, this would be it.
  - What are some examples of faith, hope and love in our lives as disciples of Jesus?
  - Choose one of these and discuss as a group in more detail, how we can be catalysts for this in our faith community and as the church in our part of the world (especially if we don't see a lot of it in certain areas).

3. In Colossians 1:9 Paul says that he is praying that God will “fill you with all the knowledge of his will and understanding”, so they will be able to apply this with wisdom and understanding.
- What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing Him and His ways?
  - Think of a person in your life that you may have known ‘about’ but then got to know personally. How did this perhaps change your relationship as you came to understand the way they did things or their preferences?
  - How does knowing Jesus and his ways help us as we make decisions and do life?

### **Pray and Apply**

- Ask God to show you areas in your world and faith community where you can be a catalyst for faith, hope and love.
- Practice gratitude and thankfulness each day, asking God to show you areas you hadn’t noticed before where you can be thankful.
- Consider one way that you can continue to grow in knowing God.