

# **GROWTH + GROUPS**

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

## **Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide SB 01.30.2022**

### **THE MINISTER AND HIS MINISTRY – Colossians 1:23-29**

#### Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Paul wrote this letter to a group of believers in a city called Colossae. He had never personally been to this city or even met these believers, but his heart was with them, and he wanted to encourage and pastor them. In the passage we're going to look at today, Paul is going to give us a window into his heart and tell us about what motivated him in his ministry. Paul was rejoicing that he had the privilege of suffering so that others would be able to hear the Gospel. Here we learn an important lesson. We should be thankful for everything that happens to us as we speak to others about Christ. The idea of the church was not known in the OT. However, the church has been revealed NOW – Christ live in us who believe! Paul was also glad to share with the Gentiles the riches that we have in Christ. We are to preach and warn people of their sins. Then we are to teach every person that becomes a Christian so that the person may become complete (mature) in Christ. Let's get into our study...

1. What stood out to you during this week's study?
2. Pastor Daniel shared how the Lord called him to ministry. How did the Lord call you to your ministry?
3. Have a few people share their testimony of how God called them to their ministry? (Note that ministry can be in the Church or in the workplace - Wherever God plants us, is where we need to bloom!)

#### Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

#### **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 1:23-29**

1. In verse 24, Paul says his flesh takes on the suffering that was still lacking from Christ's afflictions. If Christ did all that was needed to redeem us, what "lack" might Paul be talking about?
2. Why do you think that suffering, such as Paul endured as he wrote this letter from prison, often serves to advance the gospel?

**Sometimes suffering serves to advance the gospel because it confirms the sincerity of the one preaching the message. Paul would not have endured all the suffering that he did unless he believed that the message he preached was accurate.**

3. What message did Paul suggest should be the loudest proclaimed by the church, and what priorities in our church reveal that our church is proclaiming that message to the world? (What did Pastor Daniel say in his message about this?)
4. What are some ways, besides preaching, that the church can proclaim the message of Christ?

**Christ has reconciled us. For what purpose? To present us as holy and blameless before God. His chief goal is not our comfort or our convenience. His chief goal is to make us holy and to present us as a gift to God. This is the reason that God has saved you. If you wonder why you face difficulties and trials this is the answer. God cares about your character more than your comfort.**

## **BREAKTHROUGH!** in 2022

**HAVE EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP LOOK UP AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS BELOW: Rejoicing in suffering: Acts 9:16; Rom. 5:1-5; 2 Cor. 1:5-6; 4:10-12; Phil. 2:16-18; 1 Thess. 3:7; 2 Tim. 1:8; 2:10.**

1. From Acts 9:16, did Paul suffer much after receiving Christ as his savior? Give examples...
2. According to Romans 5:1-5, what does suffering do in the life of the believer?
3. According to 2 Cor. 1:5-6, what is God's promise to those who suffer for Him?
4. In Philippians 2:16-18, why is it so important that we hold on to God's Word, as we go through various trials? What will be our reward?
5. Read 2 Timothy 1:8 and 2:10 - How can you explain how Paul was so totally committed to the Gospel, that he was willing to suffer anything for the sake of winning people to Christ.

### Applying God's Word

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**In Colossians 1:28-29 Paul tells us “28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. 29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.” **This 2022, let each of us proclaim Jesus to others, because only Jesus is able to minister to the hearts of people and restore their soul. Let's warn them in love that Christ is coming soon and they need to get right with God. As we obey God in sharing Christ, He gives us the wisdom we need in that moment to speak to the person's heart. It is God who gives us the power through the Holy Spirit to minister to others. May God work mightily in you this 2022 that we may see many breakthroughs for the glory of God!****

1. What spiritual gifts has God given you to “steward” for others? How can you use them this week to help others to be “completer in Christ?”
2. What are some practical ways you can demonstrate the faith, hope, and love that come as a result of believing the gospel?
3. What is God calling you to do to stand for the gospel in your sphere of influence? (Workplace, home, community.)

**PRAYER – Pray for one another for opportunities to share Christ with others in word and deed. As you close, pray Paul's prayer in Colossians 1:9-14 over your group.** *9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 ¶ giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”*

*“The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.” (Acts 5:41).*