

SOUTHWEST: LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY

7-22-07 - "Kingdom Conversations – Part 2"

Open: Share about the "opportunities" from your life to deliver Christ to people.

- The missed ones
- The one's you took advantage of
- Your current ones

Dig: Read Col 1:3-8 – *"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints- 5 the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel 6 that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit."*

Vs. 3-4 – Paul thanks God for the Colossian Christians because of their faith in Jesus and love for men.

- Why are these two things considered by some the "Twin Pillars" of our faith?
- What happens when someone tries to have faith in Christ, but not love for his fellow man? Can you think of examples of this?
- What happens when someone tries to have love for his fellow man, but lacks faith in Christ? Can you think of examples of this?

Vs. 6-8 – According to William Barclay, this is a kind of summary of what the gospel is and does.

Discuss each insight, why it is important and inspiring for the Kingdom citizen as he considers reaching out to others.

- *The gospel is good news of God.* – "Gospel" means "good news". Share with each other for a few minutes about what is so good about our message.
- *The gospel is truth.* – All previous religions could be entitled, "guesses about God." Why is this important, and how do we best deliver this reality in a way that the world might give the claim a fair hearing?
- *The gospel is universal.* – It is for all the world, not one race, nation, class or condition. Very few things in this world are open to all men. Why is this important for Kingdom citizens, and the world, to know?
- *The gospel is productive.* – Why is it important for us to know that the gospel bears fruit and increases? What is the fruit of the gospel? How do you know when the Kingdom is increasing?
- *The gospel tells of grace.* – It is not so much the message of what God demands as what He offers. Why is this important as we approach others with it?
- *The gospel is humanly transmitted through relationships.* – It was Epaphras who brought it to the Colossians. What are some of the non-relational ways that we depend on, hoping that the gospel is advanced without our personal and relational involvement?

Discuss: The Southwest church believes that every member is blessed when investing and growing in three areas:

- Your relationship with God.
- Your relationship with each other.
- Your relationship with the world.

Put these three relationships in order, from the one you are healthiest in to the one that needs the most growth, before you go into your prayer time.

Pray: Pray that each in your group would be active in sharing the gospel of Christ through their relationships.