

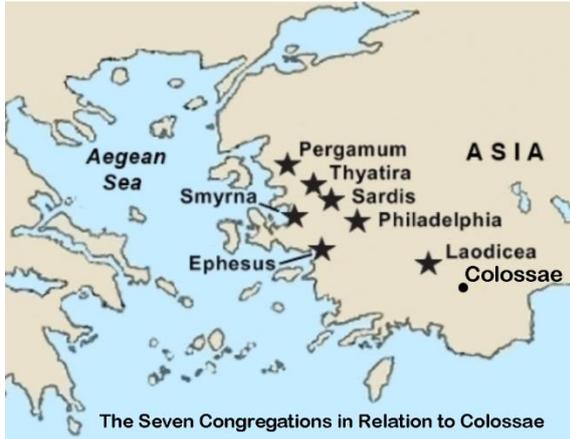


Small Group Questions Sunday 24/04/22

Series: 'In Christ: the fullness of who we are and what we have in Christ'
Sermon: Colossians 1:1-14

Read Colossians 1:1-14

Background



Colossians is a letter written by Paul, to a young church in Colosse (today's Southwest Turkey). Paul is writing from prison in Rome. He did not plant this church, but he's heard about them through his fellow worker Epaphras.

There were two main cultural pressures surrounding these new Christians:

1. Syncretism: this idea that you could combine lots of different religious beliefs, or schools of thought. (One of these beliefs was Gnosticism... the belief that your soul is trapped in a physical body and needs to escape into a higher secret, mystical world.
2. Jewish Christians: the pressure to first become Jews before entry to the Christian faith – to follow Jewish Laws and practices including circumcision.

Paul counters these two pressures

1. verse 2: 'To God's holy people IN Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters IN Christ' – Paul is saying... We are NOW citizens of the kingdom of heaven, found IN Christ AND, at the same time, here IN this physical world that God created and cares so much about.

Q. What verses highlight that it is by grace we are saved?

2. verse 6: *the reason the gospel has it had been bearing fruit is because they have 'heard the Gospel AND TRULY UNDERSTOOD GOD'S GRACE.'*
Verse 12-14 *HE has qualified you, He has rescued you, in HIM we have redemption.*

Paul's Prayer for them vv9-12:

Read verses 9-12 and notice the sense of progression/growing/maturing: This is discipleship.

Verse 10 in the NIV reads: 'so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord.'

The literal translation here is ‘so that you may **walk worthily** of the Lord.’

Discuss: Have you noticed that the bible is full of the language of walking? See how many passages you can find that refer to walking/ being on a path/ being on a journey. What narratives in Scripture can you think of that include a journey?

Challenge: Am I walking my life closely with God?
Am I still being attentive to my personal discipleship and growth in Christ?

Discuss: What are the pressures on the journey that might throw us off course?
Do we feel pressured by our culture?
In what ways can we remain on the right track? (Mentors, discipline, community?)

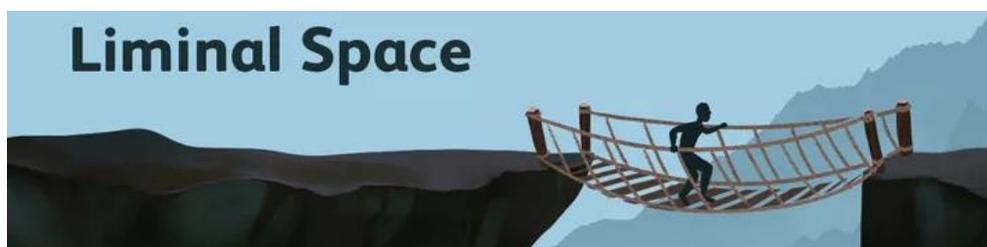
The promise throughout Scripture is that God is walking with us. For example:

Leviticus 26: ‘I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be my people.’

Verse 11: Paul prays that we might have GREAT endurance and patience...

Liminal Space

The word "liminal" comes from the Latin word "limen," which means threshold. To be in a liminal space means to be on the precipice of something new but not quite there yet. You can be in a liminal space physically, emotionally, or metaphorically.



We live in the ‘now and not yet.’ The Christian walk is a life lived in transition. Liminality is a crucial part of the mechanisms of the created world. Every created thing must go through a liminal transitory, chaotic state, before it reaches its completion.... The caterpillar in the chrysalis, the painful process of giving birth, the dreaded teenage years! etc.

Most transitions are disorientating, chaotic, uncertain etc. But Scripture is full of affirmations of God’s guidance and care for us on this journey.

You may want to read through some psalms eg. 23; 121; 139 and more...

PRAY

Spend some time in discussion and prayer....