



Holy Trinity
Combe Down



St Andrew's
Community Church

Homegroup Material Sunday 8th May 2022 Colossians 1:24-2:5

Pray

Read Colossians 1:24-2:5

Discuss: What 'fine-sounding arguments' (2:4) have you found most convincing/challenging over the last few years? [perhaps arguments which subtly undermine central Christian truths]

Share: Share an example of a Christian ministry (probably a church you are/have been involved in!) which has really helped you grow in your faith. What were the elements of that ministry which most helped you?

Re-read 1:24-29

On Sunday we looked at 5 marks of 'Jesus shaped ministry' which we see in Paul's apostolic ministry here:

- Suffering with Jesus (v.24) [*NB leaders you may want to pause and wrestle with this tricky verse. This verse has been used by some theologians to defend an understanding of atonement which allows for us to contribute to the cleansing of sin by our suffering (hence self-flagellation etc.). What in the rest of the bible helps us to read this verse differently? How does Philipians 3:11 help us wrestle with Paul's theology of suffering?*]
- Word of God (v.25)
- Biblically Inclusive (v.26-7)
- The goal is maturity in Jesus (v.28) [*NB you may want to dwell a little on why this is a good goal – cf. sermon!*]
- The fuel is the power of Jesus (v.29)

As you shared your examples above (of ministry you have found helpful) did you see any/many parallels with Paul here?

Which of these five characteristics (which are obviously not an exhaustive list...) are most lacking in today's church?

Which do you think we do well at Holy Trinity/St. Andrews and where do we need to grow more like Jesus in our ministry? How could you begin to shape our church culture to be more Jesus-shaped?

Re-read. 2:1-5

Paul seems to identify a happy circle of growth for Christian maturity:

Receiving Christ by faith (1:27), his Spirit in us → united with his people in love (2:2) → riches of understanding (2:2) → Word of God in all its fulness (1:25) → more of Jesus → more understanding → deeper fellowship → more maturity...and so on

What do we do in church which enables this sort of happy circle and growth in maturity?

What hinders us (individually or corporately) from this happy circle of growth?

Prayer and worship

Take time to pray for one another. You might like to pray specifically for one another to become more like Jesus – growth in the fruit of the spirit. Try to be specific in your prayers for one another.

Given the content of 1:24-29 you might like also to take time to pray for those in leadership in our church locally and nationally – that they might have Jesus-shaped ministries.

Ensure you finish by taking time to worship Jesus: in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Not bad.