



theridgechurch

LIFEgroup Discussion Questions

Gratitude, an essential guardian to the soul

November 16, 2014

Read: Colossians 2.1-8

1. Before you dive into this week's sermon look back to last week and specifically 2 Corinthians 4.15. What is gratitude? What brings about or causes gratitude? How are the two words (grace and gratitude) linked? What is the aim of gratitude? Has this impacted your life in any way this past week? If so, share.
2. As we look at this week's text in Colossians 2, why was Paul suffering for the churches (2.1-2)? In Colossians 2, what was Paul's desire for the end of his encouragement (2.2, 7 – hint: *what did he want to see overflowing?*)?
3. Paul wanted the church at Colossae to see the excellency of God and to grow deeper in the grace of God. How do we see that spoken of in the passage (2.2-7) and when we see God rightly and keep fixed on Him what is produced (2.7)? An important element of keeping our eyes on God and His grace, so that gratitude will overflow is seen in community. What in Colossians 2.2 speaks of that (answer: *having been knit together in love*)?

John Piper mentions the important link between growing in knowledge, understanding and wisdom (seeing God's excellency, growing deeper in His grace) to community when he says: *The deepest and most certain insights into the character of God and the wisdom of God come into heads that are attached to loving hearts.*

4. This text also has a battleground feel as we heard in the sermon. What is the enemy trying to do (2.4; 8)? What is the result of those who are deluded and deceived according to Romans 1.21? So, how is gratitude a guardian to the soul when it comes to deception and delusion?
5. Continue to think about how gratitude is a guardian to the soul in the following passages and what do they impact specifically?
 - Colossians 4.2; Philippians 4.6-7
 - Ephesians 5.4
 - *Matthew 20.1-16; Philippians 2.14
 - *As you look at the parable in Matthew 20, remember that seeing the grace of God is vital to gratitude overflowing. In the parable, how does the first group in the parable fail to see the grace of God? What as the result? What is grumbling and its cause?
6. What is one way you want to put into practice what you have heard today? As you close today, pray about this as a group and ask the Lord to give you through His Spirit to see God and His excellency rightly this week and to see the grace of God in all things.

Prayer