

# CENTERED:

## Focussing Your Life on Christ

### Colossians 1:1-8



## 2. WARM UP

- How can you tell what is important to someone?
- What are some ways we communicate our values with our lifestyle choices and our habits?
- Have you ever thought about the centering influences in your life?
- What are some of the focuses you have centered on in your life?

## 1. DIVE IN

Read Colossians 1:1-8: *The first paragraph of a letter sets the tone for the letter. Be aware of what themes and ideas are being introduced in this opening section of Colossians.*

- What do the first two verses tell us about the author(s) and about the recipients of this letter? How are they introduced?
- What is the emphasis and starting point of the prayer in verse 3?
- What qualities are mentioned about the Colossian church in verses 4-5
- What did they hear that brought about these changes in their life?
- What are the different terms used to describe the message they received from Epaphras?
- What important themes are introduced in this introduction which may set the stage for future topics within this letter?

## 3. REFLECT

- Notice how the three virtues of faith, hope and love interact in these beginning verses. How do these virtues connect in your own life?
- What is the link between your faith in Jesus and the love you have for other believers?
- Can you relate to the idea of hope laid up for you in heaven? Why or why not?
- How would you explain the gospel to someone?
- They had come to truly appreciate Gods grace - this is a description of their conversion experience. How and when did you first come to appreciate Gods grace?
- Have you ever thought of the gospel as a regenerative force as he describes it in verse 6?
- Do you think that this message can have the same impact today as it did in the first century when this letter was written?

## 4. APPLY

- What is the center of my life today? How does this compare to the Colossian church?
- What difference has the gospel made in my life? How is that flowing through me to others?
- How does my faith in Christ translate into love for other believers?
- Where is my hope focussed on today? How can I keep my focus on the hope that Christ provides for me when I am tempted to focus and hope in other things?
- How should this passage affect my prayer life and focus?
- Christ centered people are focussed and gospel centered how does this show up in my life today?

## 5. LOOK FORWARD

Read through the prayer for the Colossians in 1:9-14.

While they had come to know Christ as their Savior, there was more in store for them in their relationship with God, so Paul prays for them to become more and more **centered in Christ** and experience the will of God in their lives as they focus on Jesus.

