

was only for a few special people to know - Paul wants the Colossians and us to be aware that God's will is open to all.

- We can so easily in church life however become pre-occupied with our programmes and plans - we can so easily forget to seek God's open accessible will and to implement His plans. Things go so much better when we do!
4. Gain spiritual wisdom (1:9)
    - The false teachers in Colosse were claiming that the more 'knowledge' one gained of God the closer one could draw to God.
    - Paul prays for their spiritual wisdom to increase - their relationship with God has nothing to do with how much head knowledge they have acquired. Their relationship with God, the ability to call him 'abba' or 'daddy', comes from what Jesus did on the Cross.
    - Does our 'spiritual wisdom' need to increase? Do we too need to be reminded that our relationship with God comes as a free gift.
  5. Please and honour God (1:10)
    - As our spiritual wisdom deepens and our knowledge of God's will increases then surely we want to please and honour our Father. Our growing relationship will only heighten our desire to please and honour Him.
  6. Bear good fruit (1:10)
    - Spiritual fruit (*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* (Galatians 5:22-23)) grows as we seek to please and honour God.
  7. Grow in the knowledge of God (1:10)
    - True 'knowledge of God' says Paul comes from our relationship with God, when we seek to please and honour him not from the human programmes being peddled by false teachers whose motives are often fuelled by control.
    - Today our head knowledge of God grows as we seek to go deeper in God's word but our heart knowledge grows as we seek deeper relationship with God.
  8. Be filled with God's strength (1:11)
    - Nothing happens without God's strength. Everything we do needs to be filled with God's spirit or power. That is why prayer is vital. We need to be asking God to release His power into the programmes and plans that He has called us to do.
  9. Have great endurance and patience (1:11)
    - We need to be patient and willing to wait on God's timing. We need to be in for the long haul!
  - 10 Stay full of Christ's joy (1:11)
  - 11 Giving thanks always (1:12)
  12. Conclusion
    - What a fantastic prayer and vision Paul gives the Colossian church. Imagine what our church would be like if we truly implemented all ten points.

### 3. Questions to consider at home

1. Surely a better understanding of the Bible is a good thing. Why does Paul berate the false teachers for promoting this?
2. If relationship is key to our faith, how do we build and develop our relationship with the Lord?
3. As a church are we 'bearing good fruit'? How could we improve?

Matthew Street 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012



## The Parish of Peasedown St John

### Colossians 1:9-14 - Our Vision

#### Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

##### 1. Talk Passage – Colossians 1:9-14

*9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

##### 2. Talk Notes

###### 1. Introduction

- As a church 'what is our vision?' APCM Sunday gives us a chance to remind ourselves of what 'our task' is and should be
  - Paul's prayer in Colossians acts as a brilliant summary of what the 'task and vision' of every church should be. Everything Paul knows about the Colossian church comes from their faithful pastor and founder, Epaphras. The church has clearly grown but its converts are struggling with false teachers, false beliefs and the prevailing anti-Christian cultures of their day – with the result that they are being tempted to water down the key truths of the gospel. Paul outlines in his prayer 10 things that need to happen in the Colossian church that will change their spiritual lives and the influence that they have around them. These same ten things apply to us in the St J's Group:
    - 1) Never forget that they have been rescued from their sins: '*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*' (1:13-14)
    - 2) Understand God's will '*asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will*' (1:9)
    - 3) Gain spiritual wisdom '*all spiritual wisdom*' (1:9)
    - 4) Please and honour God '*live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way*' (1:10)
    - 5) Bear good fruit *bearing fruit in every good work* (1:10)
    - 6) Grow in the knowledge of God '*growing in the knowledge of God*' (1:10)
    - 7) Be filled with God's strength '*being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might*' (1:11)
    - 8) Have great endurance and patience '*have great endurance and patience*' (1:11)
    - 9) Stay full of Christ's joy '*joyfully*' (1:11)
    - 10) Giving thanks always '*giving thanks to the Father*' (1:12)
- ###### 2. Never forget that they have been rescued from their sins (1:13-14)
- As a church we must never forget that:
    - a) We are a 'life boat' station. We are here for the lost.
    - b) We are here for the people who are not yet here.
- ###### 3. Understand God's will (1:9)
- The false teachers in Colosse were peddling the lie that knowledge of God's will

was only for a few special people to know - Paul wants the Colossians and us to be aware that God's will is open to all.

- We can so easily in church life however become pre-occupied with our programmes and plans - we can so easily forget to seek God's open accessible will and to implement His plans. Things go so much better when we do!
4. Gain spiritual wisdom (1:9)
    - The false teachers in Colosse were claiming that the more 'knowledge' one gained of God the closer one could draw to God.
    - Paul prays for their spiritual wisdom to increase - their relationship with God has nothing to do with how much head knowledge they have acquired. Their relationship with God, the ability to call him 'abba' or 'daddy', comes from what Jesus did on the Cross.
    - Does our 'spiritual wisdom' need to increase? Do we too need to be reminded that our relationship with God comes as a free gift.
  5. Please and honour God (1:10)
    - As our spiritual wisdom deepens and our knowledge of God's will increases then surely we want to please and honour our Father. Our growing relationship will only heighten our desire to please and honour Him.
  6. Bear good fruit (1:10)
    - Spiritual fruit (*the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* (Galatians 5:22-23)) grows as we seek to please and honour God.
  7. Grow in the knowledge of God (1:10)
    - True 'knowledge of God' says Paul comes from our relationship with God, when we seek to please and honour him not from the human programmes being peddled by false teachers whose motives are often fuelled by control.
    - Today our head knowledge of God grows as we seek to go deeper in God's word but our heart knowledge grows as we seek deeper relationship with God.
  8. Be filled with God's strength (1:11)
    - Nothing happens without God's strength. Everything we do needs to be filled with God's spirit or power. That is why prayer is vital. We need to be asking God to release His power into the programmes and plans that He has called us to do.
  9. Have great endurance and patience (1:11)
    - We need to be patient and willing to wait on God's timing. We need to be in for the long haul!
  - 10 Stay full of Christ's joy (1:11)
  - 11 Giving thanks always (1:12)
  12. Conclusion
    - What a fantastic prayer and vision Paul gives the Colossian church. Imagine what our church would be like if we truly implemented all ten points.

### 3. Questions to consider at home

1. Surely a better understanding of the Bible is a good thing. Why does Paul berate the false teachers for promoting this?
2. If relationship is key to our faith, how do we build and develop our relationship with the Lord?
3. As a church are we 'bearing good fruit'? How could we improve?

Matthew Street 25<sup>th</sup> March 2012



## The Parish of Peasedown St John

### Colossians 1:9-14 - Our Vision

#### Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

#### 1. Talk Passage – Colossians 1:9-14

*9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding.10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

#### 2. Talk Notes

##### 1. Introduction

- As a church 'what is our vision?' APCM Sunday gives us a chance to remind ourselves of what 'our task' is and should be
  - Paul's prayer in Colossians acts as a brilliant summary of what the 'task and vision' of every church should be. Everything Paul knows about the Colossian church comes from their faithful pastor and founder, Epaphras. The church has clearly grown but its converts are struggling with false teachers, false beliefs and the prevailing anti-Christian cultures of their day – with the result that they are being tempted to water down the key truths of the gospel. Paul outlines in his prayer 10 things that need to happen in the Colossian church that will change their spiritual lives and the influence that they have around them. These same ten things apply to us in the St J's Group:
    - 1) Never forget that they have been rescued from their sins: '*For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*' (1:13-14)
    - 2) Understand God's will '*asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will*' (1:9)
    - 3) Gain spiritual wisdom '*all spiritual wisdom*' (1:9)
    - 4) Please and honour God '*live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way*' (1:10)
    - 5) Bear good fruit '*bearing fruit in every good work*' (1:10)
    - 6) Grow in the knowledge of God '*growing in the knowledge of God*' (1:10)
    - 7) Be filled with God's strength '*being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might*' (1:11)
    - 8) Have great endurance and patience '*have great endurance and patience*' (1:11)
    - 9) Stay full of Christ's joy '*joyfully*' (1:11)
    - 10) Giving thanks always '*giving thanks to the Father*' (1:12)
- ##### 2. Never forget that they have been rescued from their sins (1:13-14)
- As a church we must never forget that:
    - a) We are a 'life boat' station. We are here for the lost.
    - b) We are here for the people who are not yet here.
- ##### 3. Understand God's will (1:9)
- The false teachers in Colosse were peddling the lie that knowledge of God's will