

Home Group Leaders Notes for the “Rooted” series

Rooted #3

Week of September 16, 2018

SHARE IT

What products are promoted as a ‘gotta have’ in our culture? (Have fun with this!)

NOTES TO LEADERS: It could be fun talking about things or experiences that we see promoted that will “change your life” or “fix your problems” or “complete” us. (The tie-in with the passage is that people were promoting things to the Colossians that would add to and complete (cf. make “full”) the good news they already heard about Jesus.)

STUDY THE BIBLE

Read carefully through Colossians 1:24-2:5. What words did the author, Paul, use to indicate his commitment to Christ and the recipients? (Include emotions, actions, goals, etc.)

NOTES TO LEADERS: I know that you will do this yourself, but here are a few examples:

- Willing to suffer
- Became a servant
- Proclaiming Christ
- Investing in people (admonishing, teaching)
- Labor, struggling with all His energy

How does Paul describe Christ and His roles?

NOTES TO LEADERS: The previous passage is perhaps the most succinct summary of Jesus Christ in the Bible. This passage continues with Paul’s passion to make him known and glorified. Here are few examples:

- **Christ suffered for us**
- **The truth about Him is glorious**
- **He is the hope of glory**
- **He dwells in his saints (the set aside ones, true believers)**
- **He gives us energy to labor to serve the proclamation of the gospel**
- **He is the mystery of God (previously hidden, now revealed truth from God)**
- **He is all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**
- **Etc.**

The recipients of the letter were hearing that they needed more than Jesus Christ. Which words and statements reveal that ‘Christ is enough?’

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is a strong motif in the book of Colossians. Paul repeatedly uses words like “all” and “full” and “complete.” In addition, Paul describes Jesus as the fulfillment of the mystery, and “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” The reason for this is that some were trying to “deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.”

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. ²⁵ I have

become its **servant** by the **commission** God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness--²⁶ the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²⁸ We **proclaim him**, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may **present everyone perfect in Christ**.²⁹ To this end I **labor**, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.¹ I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.² **My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ,³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**⁴ I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.⁵ For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is.

To what purposes and goals did Paul aspire? (e.g. for Christ, for himself, for them)

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- **Paul describes his purpose in 1:25 and 2:2-3. He has been commissioned by God to bring the gospel to the Gentiles.**
- **His goals include proclamation, admonishing, teaching the Gentiles so that they might understand and know Christ.**

DISCUSS TOGETHER

How will people know what we think is the most important thing in our life?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This could really stretch people. Somehow, people do know what we say is most important. Avenues could included . . .

- **Where and how we invest our time and money**
- **Our attitudes and actions that prevail**
- **Our love for God and one another as seen through the above**
- **Etc.**

In what ways can you relate to how Paul describes his passion for Jesus Christ?

NOTES TO LEADERS: This is very individual, depending our maturity, our understanding of who Christ is and what He has done. While we don't have Paul's specific commission, we all have been commissioned to continue Jesus purpose and make Him known.

How does Paul indicate that he is 'all about' helping others know Christ? Should his example apply to us? If we were to have Paul's passions, purposes and goals, what might it look like in our worlds?

NOTES TO LEADERS:

- 1) **Paul describes himself as suffering, laboring, for the sake of, servant of, etc. He also makes the focus of his labor others (e.g. "every person")**
- 2) **Should we not follow his example? Haven't we too been called, commissioned, and empowered to continue this mission? (There are many scriptures we could site.)**
- 3) **What might it look like? THIS IS WHAT WE WANT TO GO IN OUR CONVERSATION.**

May the Holy Spirit empower and guide you in your shepherding of people.

Steve