

## BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, July 25, 2010

Passage: Colossians 1:28-29

Memory Passage: Colossians 1:28 (Adults & Children)

**TODAY:** From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

### DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 1:28-29 & Rom. 10:14.** Col. 1:28 is the ministry verse for The Bible Church of Cabot. Paul begins this verse simply, “We proclaim Him.” Notice Paul switches to 1<sup>st</sup> person plural (we). Who do you think Paul is including in this “we?”

(b) Paul uses the verb “proclaim” in 1:28. People can (and do) proclaim their views/opinions/passions about anything! Describe what someone looks/sounds like when they are “proclaiming” about anything.

(c) According to Col. 1:28, what is the content of Paul’s proclamation? Write down a few sentences that would represent a true proclamation of Christ.

(d) How often do you “proclaim Christ” in your day-to-day life? Try to remember all the events in your day last Thursday or Friday (I just prayed that God would give you a good memory☺) and write down ways you could have proclaimed Christ in each circumstance (I’m not implying that you *necessarily should* have proclaimed Christ in all of these ways, but I want you to consider every opportunity you had!).

(e) *Family:* Be ready to play a game of charades by choosing several age-appropriate words or phrases to be acted out. Have one person act out their word/phrase in a normal way (i.e. no words; only motions), and then tell the next person that they may use words to convey their word/phrase. As complaints of “unfair!” begin, ask everyone “Why is this unfair?” When they respond with “Because it’s easier to understand when someone talks!” have someone **read Rom. 10:14 & Col 1:28** and then you explain why we must “proclaim” (preach, speak about) Christ so people can hear & believe the Gospel.

### DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Acts 20:31; 1 Cor. 4:14; 1 Thess. 5:14 & 2 Thess. 3:15.** After reading these verses in their context (which means you may have to read a couple of verses prior to each reference in order to understand the context), give a definition of what the Bible means when it says someone has been/should be admonished?

(b) **Read Col. 1:28.** Paul says that as he proclaims Christ he is “admonishing” and “teaching.” What is the difference between these two actions? Which would you rather require in your own life and why?

(c) How has Paul been “admonishing” & “teaching?” Why is this important? What is the relationship between Paul’s claim that he “Proclaim(s) (Christ), admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom” and Col. 1:9?

(d) Remembering that this is our Ministry Verse here at BCC, what impact do these acts of admonishing and teaching have on our ministry? What things must necessarily be present/active in our ministry? What things must necessarily be fought against? What impact does this verse have on your own ministry (or should it have)?

(e) *Family:* Have one of your older children teach you (or reverse the illustration and you teach them) how to accomplish a chore that you are to be assigned (i.e. setting a table setting with the dishes and utensils in the correct places, taking out the trash and putting a new bag in the can, washing the dishes, cleaning off the dirty dishes on the table, etc.). Make sure you give them time beforehand to plan how they will teach you. Then, when it is your turn to show you know how to accomplish this task, refuse to do it. Cross your arms, make a face, and pout. Have your child then try to motivate you to accomplish the task you have been taught. Use the two different responses to illustrate and teach the difference between “admonishing” (confronting someone with the Scriptures with the intent of changing their attitudes and actions) and “teaching” (presenting the truth of the Scriptures in a systematic and orderly way so people can learn).

### DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

### READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Col. 1:28.** Paul uses the phrase “every man” 3 times in this verse: “admonishing every man,” “teaching every man” and “present every man” (if your version does not show this, it should!). Does Paul mean that he, Timothy, Epaphras and the others in Colossae actually confront every man in the world with Christ? If not, then what does he mean?

(b) Again remembering that this is our Ministry Verse, what impact must this idea of “every man” have on ministry at BCC?

(c) Write down at least 5 ways that we can implement this ministry of admonishing & teaching Christ to every man to professing believers in BCC. Now write 5 at least ways that we can implement this ministry to non-believers.

(d) *Family*: Using your white board (or poster board/butcher paper/cut-open paper sack etc.) have someone write down all of the ways the group comes up with to be involved as a family in admonishing and teaching. Make one column for ministering to your community and another column for ministering to each other inside your family and other church members.

#### DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

#### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) As you **read Matt. 5:48; 19:12; Eph. 4:13; Heb. 5:14 & James 1:4**, be on the lookout for the word “complete” (sometimes translated “perfect” or “mature”) and write down what you learn (each of these verses contain the same Greek word).
- (b) Paul says his desire is to “present every man complete in Christ.” When will this “presenting” take place?
- (c) One definition of “complete” as used in v. 28 is: “The quality of being so wholehearted in one’s devotion to the Lord that one can be said to be blameless in conduct” (Douglas J. Moo, *The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008], 161). How do the acts of admonishing and teaching result in people being presented complete in Christ?
- (d) And again (©) consider that this is our Ministry Verse for BCC. How does the idea of “presenting every man (and woman) complete in Christ” impact our ministry? What does it say about what is proclaimed? How it is proclaimed? When it is proclaimed? How often it is proclaimed? Your role in what is proclaimed? Etc. . .etc. . . etc . . . etc
- (e) *Family*: Begin a discussion about what each member of the family is most passionate about. Sum up each persons’ passion by saying things like: “So you would rather play baseball than anything else?” or “So eating ice cream is what you would choose to do every night if you could?” or “So there is no way you could ever have too many Barbie dolls (or video games or whatever)?” Then explain that your goal as a parent as you teach and admonish your family with the Scriptures is to present each one “complete” in Christ, and that this word does not mean that they have missing pieces or unfinished sentences or anything like that, but they are completely devoted and totally passionate about being a follower of Christ.

#### DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

#### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Col. 1:29**. Paul often uses the term “labor” to refer to his own ministry (cf. Rom. 16:6, 12; 1 Cor. 15:10; 16:16; Gal. 4:11; Phil. 2:16; 1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Tim 4:10; 5:17). Why do you think he uses this term so often to refer to his ministry? Do you ever feel like your ministry is “labor” or “striving?” Do these feelings ever cause you to want to withdraw from ministry? What do you do when you begin to feel this way?
- (b) In whose power does Paul say he labors and strives? Notice that Paul says both: He works and God works in him. Ministry is work, takes effort, and requires striving, but all of our striving and labor is according to God’s power in us!!! What obvious impact should this have on us when our striving begins to cause us to falter and withdraw? How might remembering this help you to encourage other believers when they are weak but you are stronger?
- (c) Paul says that he labors and strives “for this purpose.” What is this purpose? Think back on all of your ministry efforts during the last week and evaluate whether or not each one had the purpose of “presenting every man complete in Christ.” If they did not, how might you change that in the coming week? If you could not think of any ministry in which you have been involved, now is a great time to repent before the Lord and ask Him for a renewed passion to “proclaim Christ, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that (you) may present every man complete in Christ.”
- (d) *Family*: Choose something that would be impossible or next to impossible for your children to lift with their own strength but that you can lift (a cinder block, a barbell with heavy weight, a bucket of water, a living room chair, etc). Ask each child to try to lift it on their own (make sure no one gets hurt!), and then have each child lift it again while you lift it with them. **Read Col. 1:29** and, using the illustration of the lifted object, explain to them how God works in us as we strive to serve Him.

#### DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

#### READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Read through what you have learned and studied this week and spend 15-20 minutes in prayer asking God to reveal to you new ways that you will begin to apply our ministry verse, Colossians 1:28. Write them down, ask God for His strength to accomplish them, and refer to this list daily to check the progress of your obedience as you labor and strive in His power for His glory.

**DATE:** July 25, 2010

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*The Power & Priority of Proclaiming Christ*