

Small Group Discussion Guide

“Everything” (pt. 1) – 2/15/2015

Scripture: Colossians 1:1-12

Bottom Line: Jesus is the object of our faith; may you be filled with the knowledge of his will and grow in his grace.

INTRODUCTION: If you were wrongly imprisoned, placed on death row, and could write a couple of letters, to whom and what would you write? This is a crazy way to start a Small Group discussion, right? But, let's put ourselves in Paul's shoes for a moment, then maybe we will better understand what kind of faith he is speaking about.

UNPACKING THE GOSPEL IN THE BIBLE:

Read Colossians 1:1-12

Paul is deeply excited about their faith. What do you see coupled with their faith in verses 4-5?

- Their faith was coupled with love for others and hope for a better life in heaven. The gospel is content of their faith. Therefore, they are moved to love and place their hope not in this world.

Have you ever found yourself trusting in your faith instead of in Jesus?

- Jesus should be the object of our faith, not our ability to have faith. If we trust in our ability to have faith then we are really just trusting in our works.

Does your faith move you to love people, and are you actually loving them?

- Hopefully your faith moves you to love people. If it does, then you would care about actually blessing them in the ways that they need most instead of just pretending like you care while actually not meeting their needs.

LIVING OUT THE GOSPEL IN MY EVERYDAY LIFE:

Faith in Jesus always involves growing in Grace. What does this look like daily?

- Ex: Choosing forgiveness over revenge

Knowledge of God leads to a walk with God or a relationship with God. Are you living a wise, holy, God-pleasing, Christ-like life? If not, what is the first step you should take?

- Let that first step be to focus on Jesus and the gospel, confess sin to him and receive his grace.

Finally, Faith in Jesus is enduring, patient, and joyful. Close by praying that God adds these qualities to your faith.