

# Barnsley Baptist Church

## CONNECT

### God's word for the Five Day week

August 2016

## Connect to Colossians and see Jesus Lord of all.

### Monday 1st August

V.1a. Paul is an **apostle** a messenger, sent out to proclaim the good news of Christ Jesus His mission is divinely ordained. (Galatians 1.v.1) (In a sense, all followers of Jesus Christ are called to be apostles. We are all to be His ambassadors (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20). We are all to be "ones who are sent out" (Acts 1:8). We are all to be preachers of the good news (Romans 10:15). When did you last speak of Christ to anyone?

### Tuesday 2<sup>rd</sup> August

V.1b **Timothy** was loved by Paul his 'father in the faith.' Nervous by nature, he received an inspirational wake-up call. 'For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.' (2, Timothy 1.7.) Worth taking this reminder to heart isn't it?

### Wednesday 3rd August

V 2. To be holy and faithful. As a believing community we are to be different and distinct. Since we belong to Christ we must be like Christ. We are to be sanctified, set apart, separate from the world, consistent in character and conduct. The world should see our true colours shining through. The church can never be a successful church ( Whatever that looks like) until it is a faithful church.

### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> August

V.2. We always bear a double identity. **In Christ and in Colossae**. We are separate from the world, kept by Christ in the world but we are never segregated from the world. We are in Christ but we are also in the community, fully engaged and playing the part we should play as citizens, making a difference adding value, simply being salt and light as Jesus called us to be.

### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> August

V.2. Can you possibly think of a more powerful greeting? **Grace** the word triggers so many lines of Thought. It especially assures us of the undeserved favour of God. When God's favour is poured out in Christ (Ephesians 1.8 ) then we enter into the experience of peace with God through Him. There is no life so blessed or so rich as a life sustained in the peace of God

## Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August

Vv 3-5. The apostle gives thanks for a church **full of faith**, committed to **love** for one another, and a church inspired by eternal **hope** that is proclaimed in the gospel. I want to be part of a church where there is concrete evidence of these great Christian virtues. There is no greater goal than this for any church. This is the kind of success that ensures church growth!

## Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

V.5. The gospel is described as **the word of truth**. Coming to Christ is an experience of understanding God's **grace** in all its truth (V.6.) John says in his first letter that as believers 'We know him who is true. And we are in him who is true, even His Son Jesus Christ He is the true God and eternal life.' (1 John 5.v.20) Knowing the truth sets us free from the grip of the Evil One who is the Father of lies.

## Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August

V.6. 'All over the world this **gospel** is bearing fruit and growing..... Do we believe this? When so many suggestions and evidences of decline are constantly being headlined? do we really believe that Christ is building His church? Are we too parochial/ We see a small part of the picture, we need to see it whole, and if we widen our vision we will see progress and productivity on an amazing scale. **The gospel has not, will not cannot fail. God will bring in his kingdom.**

## Thursday 11th August

V.7. There is a secret to the ministry of **Epaphras**. We can find out what it was in chapter 4. V.12. He is described as 'Always wrestling in prayer.' Colossae was his home church, and for this church Paul says Epaphras was working hard, as he was for other fellowships as well. How faithful is our ministry of prayer. Do we cover the life of fellowship of which we are apart with intercession and industry?

## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> August

V.9 **There are two types of pastor**. There are those who prey on their people and those who pray for their people. Paul's pastoral prayers are always powerful and practical. His prayers for spiritual blessings and specific outcomes. The knowledge of God's will leads to a worthy life, a life that pleases God, a life that is committed to good work ( Ephesians 2.10.) and spiritual growth, a life that is always moving into more and more maturity.

## NOTES

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August

V. 11. With God's strength on the inside (compare Ephesians 3.10.) we don't collapse or go to pieces when we are under pressure. We are able to **persevere**. We can take the long view of things and work our way through tough times. We can be **patient** in affliction. (Romans 12.v.12.) Patience is a term that struggles to find a place in our world of instant delivery service. It goes against the grain to wait for anything. The song writer say, Patient endurance attaineth to all things, whom God possesseth in nothing is wanting,. Alone God sufficeth."

## Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> August

Vv 12-14. There is amazing ground for thanksgiving when we reflect on the great change that happens when we come into the **kingdom of light**, which is also the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. In a single sentence Paul highlights, **Rescue, Redemption** and the special release that comes through the **forgiveness of sins**. This is the limitless power of the gospel at work for us and in us. .

Vv 15- 20 We sing a song that is a substantial commentary on these verses.

Above all powers Above all kings; Above all nature and all created things; Above all wisdom and all the ways of man. You were here before the world began; Above all kingdoms, Above all thrones, Above all wonders the world has ever known; Above all wealth and treasures of the earth ,There's no way to measure what you're worth. Crucified! Laid behind the stone. You lived to die, Rejected and alone; Like a rose trampled on the ground, You took the fall, And thought of me above all.

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August

Vv 15-20. These verses need to be revisited time and time again because there is so much that is fundamental for faith in them. The **Christ** who is the only **Head of the church**, is **Risen** and **Reigning** over all things, in heaven and on earth. All God's action, all God wants to accomplish He accomplishes through Christ. **Jesus is God's all in all**, and He is everything to us because He has done everything for us.

## Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August

Vv 15-20. **Restoring broken** relationships is never is always costly. The most important of all our relationships, our relationship with God, broken by our sin, has been restored, but the cost of this restoration was nothing less than the cost of the Cross. We do not have peace at any price. We have peace

## Connect to Colossians

### Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August

Vv 21-23. What a total transformation we experience! Alienated, separated, outsiders, - this was our situation. We were sinners, condemned and unclean. But now? We are reconciled, totally changed., accepted, clean and freed from sin and guilt. Dead in sin, we are now alive in Christ. Al, that we are we owe to the death of Christ at Calvary

### Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August

V 24. Jesus achieved a perfect and a complete salvation for us in His death on the Cross. nothing more that needs to be done. But in taking the message of the Cross to a world that knew nothing of Jesus Paul, suffered for the sake of the gospel and the church. He learned that the Christian way is always the way of fellowship with Christ in His suffering. To know Jesus is to know what it to be crucified with Christ, but sharing with Christ in his suffering brings us closer to Jesus, and to be closer to Jesus, always, in spite of any outward problems and tribulations, increase joy and brings contentment.

### Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> August

There is Vv, 25-27. If we were to be asked what the gospel actually means to us, or if we had to say what it has added to our lives, we could make no better response than we find in these verses. We often say Christianity is not a religion it is a relationship. Verse 27 undergirds this statement. The secret of the Gospel is not something hidden or slightly sinister, it is an open secret, and the secret is Christ in you filling and flooding the whole of your hearts and mind with `his presence and His power- today!!!!

### Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> August

V 28. The preaching of the gospel, aligned to pastoral instruction and guidance has very clear goals. It is by this method of preaching, teaching and training that we as believers are brought to maturity in Christ.

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August

V 29. Paul was no stranger to unremitting hard work. He knew He was empowered. He was mightily inspired. He could do all things through Christ who strengthened Him, but what was true in principle Saturday has come round again, so quickly. Assuming you have the day off have you made plans to do odd jobs that are stacking up? Make space for some down time. You need it and probably very much deserve it.

### Monday 29<sup>th</sup> August

2.Vv 1-3. Look at these verses and see why Paul is working tirelessly for believers he knows and for those whom he has never met. Do you see he has 3 aims? What are they? They are encouragement, unity in fellowship and a full understanding of the mystery or secret of God, which is? Knowing Christ. This mystery is really the open secret of faith, which is Christ in you the hope of glory. (1.v.27.)

### Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> August

2.v.3. Wisdom and Knowledge were the two most prized qualities pursued in the Greek speaking world.. What does Paul say about this wisdom and how does he contrast this with God's wisdom? (1 Corinthians 1.vv v 18-25.)

### Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August

2.Vv.4-5. In our time, a time of fiercely competing world views, faith comes under pressure. This is a day when our discipline is needed, and our doctrine needs to be held with clear conviction. A wide teacher writing at a time of turmoil in Christian theology gave this as a guiding principle. Hold fast to Christ, and for the rest be totally uncommitted.'