

Word notes Sunday 6/9/09 – Tony Hodge
Christ in you, the hope of glory

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Text: Colossians 1:21-27

Early church teaching is all about relationship not following rules and regulations. In writing to the church at Colossae Paul wants to remind them of the primacy (above all other things), sufficiency (nothing else needed) and universality (for everyone) of reconciliation to God through Jesus Christ. In this passage Paul brings together three aspects of his message.

1 We are reconciled to God by Christ's body and his death, however this is not just for our bodies, our minds also need renewing as that's where our actions start out. Formerly we lived for ourselves, following our own desires and thoughts (Eph 2:3). The Law said what we should and shouldn't do, Jesus said even our thoughts cause us to fall short (Matthew 5 - Sermon on the Mount, especially the latter part (vv21-48) after the beatitudes).

2 The Good News is worth suffering for- Christ's makes our own weaknesses into his triumph. Paul is eager to "fill up in his flesh" what he lacks in comparison to Jesus own sufferings – not in the self-denial or self-harm of asceticism but through the treatment received from others because of his declaration of the Good News

3 The mystery revealed through Christ: that the nature and character of God is displayed through us as Christ lives in us. Like Paul we should allow Christ to live in us in order to show His glory. Seems a tall order but it comes not from our effort but by allowing Christ to live in us. How - be being filled with the Spirit, study the word, talk to God in prayer. Paul knew he needed God (Eph 6:19), as did Moses (Ex 33:15-17).

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Use the following questions to stimulate discussion on Cell members experience and understanding of this central truth – that Christ is in them, the hope of glory. Allow time for thanksgiving and prayer.

Do you believe that Christ is in you? - Is it simply a mental belief or does it impact your life?
In what ways does it affect your life?

If you believe that Christ is in you, when was the last time you thanked God for that?

Why do you think Jesus Christ would want to dwell in us?

What should our response be to God?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks and prays about how to share the Good News)

It's the start of a new school term and often a time to plan events from now till Christmas. What might the Cell do to reach out to non-Christian friends, neighbours etc? start to pray and plan.