



Resolved.

Glorify God—Focus on the Gospel
Colossians 1:28-29

How to Prepare

Begin preparing by reading the full passage a few times. Then answer the questions for yourself. Then think about how your Small Group might answer them. Try re-wording the questions to fit you and your Small Group. Don't feel tied down to the discussion guide, just be sure to discuss the main point of the text in your conversations.

Resources-

<https://www.desiringgod.org/labs/who-presents-believers-mature-in-christ>

<https://learn.ligonier.org/articles/mature-in-christ>

Sermon Outline:

Colossians 1:28-29

1. Jesus is Our Message. V. 28
2. Jesus is Our Mission. V. 29

Colossians 1:28-29

The Incomparable Christ

28 We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

29 For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

Discussion Questions

Ask a volunteer to read Colossians 1:28-29.

INTRODUCTION

Here is a question or two to help introduce the topic and jump-start discussion.

1. What does it mean to be resolved about something? What are some things you are resolved about in your life?

2. Why should we be resolved to glorify God above any other thing?

UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION

These questions should help your Small Group dig deeper into the text and then apply it to your lives today.

I. Jesus is Our Message. V. 28

3. What does Paul mean when he says we must proclaim Jesus? What would it look like to “proclaim Jesus” without proclaiming the full gospel, and why would that be a problem?

(Paul means that he is proclaiming who Jesus is and what He has done for us through His life, death, and resurrection- 1 Corinthians 2:2, 15:1-8. To only ever proclaim partial truth about Jesus can be at best misleading and at worst heretical.)

4. Who is responsible for proclaiming Christ? How can a layperson proclaim Christ in the context of their lives?

(All believers are responsible for proclaiming Christ regardless of the context or platform they have from which to proclaim. Col. 3:16)

5. What is the difference between admonishing people and teaching people, and why are they both important? How do we admonish and teach with all wisdom when none of us are perfectly wise in ourselves?

6. What does it mean to be mature in Christ? How does maturity in Christ ultimately bring God the most glory?

(To be mature in Christ is to conform to His image, i.e. become like Christ in how we think, speak, and act- Romans 8:29. This brings God all glory because as we become more like Christ and conform to His image, we more accurately reflect God to the world.)

II. Jesus is Our Mission. V. 29

7. What was Paul's primary purpose in life? What does it look like for the mission of proclaiming Christ to be our primary purpose?

(God has given us many purposes, like parenting, working, creating, marriage, etc... but all of those are lesser purposes that should all be serving the one primary purpose of glorifying God in Christ Jesus. When we put any of these other purposes above or even level with our primary purpose, that is when we have created an idol.)

8. How did Paul labor at proclaiming Christ? Why is it a labor, and how do we labor in proclaiming Christ?

9. What does it mean that God's power or energy is working in us? How do we stay connected and abide in His power?

10. What changes do you need to make to abide in Christ and bring all your purposes and responsibilities in life under the one primary purpose of proclaiming Christ?

Commentary (from ESV Study Bible)

Col. 1:24–28 Paul's Suffering and Stewardship of the Mystery. Paul's sufferings are the means God uses to extend the message of the gospel to others.

Col. 1:28 that we may present everyone mature (Gk. *teleios*) in Christ. It was not enough for Paul to see people make a profession of faith in Christ, as important as this is. *Teleios* could be translated as "perfect," but full perfection will be attained only when Christ returns and believers are fully transformed. Until that time, the maturity Christians are to seek stands in contrast with the immaturity of infancy (cf. Eph. 4:14).

Col. 1:29–2:3 Paul's Labor for the Colossians. Paul ministers so that every person will be complete in Christ and will see that all wisdom and knowledge are in him.

Col. 1:29 Paul is struggling with all his [that is, Christ's] energy to help them grow and mature in Christ.