



WELCOME: *We are beginning a new series based on the apostle Paul's letter to the Colossians. Paul probably sends the letter we have in the New Testament, from a time of being in jail possibly in Rome in 60-62AD, at a similar time to writing Philippians.*

- Are there areas in your life where you feel like you are **enduring** rather than **enjoying**?

Read Col 1:11-22 around your group

- How would you summarise this passage?
- What is exciting or challenging about this passage?

Paul's opening prayer to the Colossians isn't about easier circumstances — it's about stronger people.

Read Col 1:11-12 (1. More than just a ticket to Heaven.)

- What words stand out to you in verses 11–12?
- Why do you think Paul links endurance with patience and joy together?
- How is this different from how our culture defines "strength" or "success"?

It was claimed that "God doesn't simply call the qualified — God qualifies those who are called."

- What does that phrase mean to you in your own life?

Read Col 1:13-17 (2. A new King and a new Kingdom – reassigned by the Father.)

Salvation is described as a "relocation" a claim that people who come to faith in Christ don't just change beliefs — but are transferred into a new kingdom with a new King.

- What does it mean to be rescued and brought into a kingdom?
- How is this more than just a private or internal experience?
- Why do you think Paul emphasizes who Jesus is (image of God, before all things, holding all things together)?

If we want to "flourish what do you think alignment with Christ as King looks like in:

- Your use of your time?
- Your decisions?
- Your emotional energy?

Read Col 1:19-22 (3. From hostile to holy.)

Peace in this context is not just a feeling — it's a restored relationship. God sees you through the finished work of Christ, not through your past failures.

- What does it mean that God made peace “through his blood”?
- How does Paul describe who we were versus who we now are?
- Why is reconciliation essential for flourishing?

Practical Application

- What would it look like to live this week from a place of being accepted, rather than feeling accused?
- How does peace with God change the way you relate to yourself and others?

Pray together:

Father God, we thank You for Paul's example of what it means to live a Jesus focussed Christian life, what it looks like to be content, even in the midst of difficulty. Help us as a LIFEgroup and for our church to follow Paul's example and to grow in unity in Christ. Help us when we have tough times to recall that we have been reassigned by the Father/Gardener to flourish. We pray for peace in anxious hearts, renewed thinking in confused minds, contentment in all circumstances and for fruitful gospel partnerships in our community. Help us to be a blessing to others and for the good things we do to bring praise to you our Father in heaven.

We pray that we might hear more clearly the voice of the Holy Spirit and have the spiritual capacity to perceive what you are already doing, that we might join in with You. We pray for the leaders of our church and the leaders in our world, for our neighbourhood, our city, our nation, and the nations and for clarity about our part in taking the good news of Jesus to our world. Amen