

## Questions week beginning 18 February 2024

### **READ Colossians 2:1-7**

1. Paul is working hard for the church in Colossae, Laodicea and other churches he has never visited (v1) that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love (v2).

- i. Why might Paul have had such a concern for churches that he didn't start or had never even been to?
- ii. The New Living Translation of v2 says "*I want them to be encouraged and knit together by strong ties of love.*" The Message paraphrase says, "*I want you woven into a tapestry of love.*" What do the words "*knit together*" and "*tapestry*" convey to you? Do you think these are good metaphors for Christian unity?
- iii. How important do you think it is for FBC to have close connections with other churches in our area?

2. Paul wanted the church to understand that Jesus is the source of all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (v3) as opposed to the false teachers of his day (Gnostics) who claimed that they alone had divine knowledge, using "fine sounding arguments" to deceive the church (v4). Can you recall any words of wisdom/knowledge that the Lord has given you in recent days?

3. What does Paul mean when he speaks of being absent from them in body but "*present with you in spirit*"? (v5). How can you be "*present*" without being in the same physical location?

4. Paul uses an agricultural and an architectural image to encourage the church to continue to live their lives for Jesus - being "*rooted and built up in him*" (v7). What does it mean to be "*rooted*" and "*built up*" in Jesus and what happens if only one of these things are in place?

5. Paul also says that the Church needs to be "*strengthened in the faith*" and "*overflowing with thankfulness*" (v7)

- i. Looking back over your Christian life what ways has God used to strengthen your faith?
- ii. In what ways are you "stronger" now than when you first became a follower of Jesus?
- iii. What are you particularly thankful to God for today?

### **READ Colossians 2:8-15**

6. Paul warns the church about being taken captive by "*hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.*"(v8). What in our culture today would you say fits into that description?

7. Paul says all "*the fullness*" of the Deity lives in Jesus' bodily form (v9) and that in Christ they have been brought "*to fulness*" (v10). What do you think Paul means by the word "*fulness*"?

8. Praise God we don't have to be physically circumcised in order to be accepted by God (!) but in verse 11 Paul speaks about being "*circumcised by Christ*". From reading verses 11-15 what do you understand that to mean?

### **READ Colossians 2:16-23**

9. Paul considered the rules and regulations of the old covenant of Moses with its dietary laws and commemoration of special days as being a "*shadow of the things to come*" - the reality now being found in Christ (v16-17). In what ways did the practices of the old covenant point to Jesus?

10. In the light of Paul's teaching do you think it is wrong for us to celebrate "special days" like Christmas Day, Good Friday or Easter Day?

11. Paul saw the Church as being like a body where everyone supported one another, and God brought the growth. By contrast those who insisted on keeping the old covenant rules or sought guidance from angels had "*lost connection with the head*" (v19). What can we do this week to support other members of the "body" that make up the family of FBC?