

Summer Volunteer Mentorship – Session 2 – Jesus, our Saviour

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, eternal Son of God, became fully man without ceasing to be God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and lived a sinless life of obedience to the Father's will. In His incarnation Jesus revealed God and redeemed sinners. The Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God as our High Priest, Intercessor and Advocate.

– BCM Int'l Statement of Faith

There are few truths more central to us as Christians than who we say and believe Jesus is. In fact, that's one of the key questions he asks his disciples in Matthew 16, and the correct answer Peter gives ('you are the Christ, the son of the living God') is the foundational truth on which the church is built! Jesus is absolutely central to our faith, and ultimately all of Scripture points to him, and the marvellous salvation he accomplished for us.

God rescues us through his son, who became a man, suffered and died in our place, rose again, and even now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven, interceding for us, and he will come again soon to judge and restore. (1 Corinthians 15:3-6, Romans 8:31-34)

One of the marvels of the gospel and our faith is that Jesus is both fully God and fully man, and thus able to accomplish our salvation. The God who created every atom of our bodies and holds everything together by his power was humiliated and killed on a cross in my place – all so that I, his enemy, could enter his family and give God the glory and worship that he is due as I live forever with him. What a Saviour!

Read Colossians 1:13-22 together.

This is one of the most incredible passages in all of Scripture about Jesus. List as many as you can of the qualities, characteristics, and descriptions of Jesus that Paul gives us.

Q. (pick 2 or 3 of the listed qualities, and ask -) How does this being true affect how I think about...serving others? Sacrificially giving my time? Suffering? What is important in my life? My desires?

Q. How does the way I live my own life reflect believing these things to be true about Jesus?

Read Philippians 2:1-11 together.

Again, list some of the qualities and characteristics of Christ we read here. Take note of the ones that overlap and/or contrast with the list in Colossians.

Q. How does what we read in Colossians 1 add even more wonder and depth to this passage?

Q. Why is it so incredible and important that both these passages about Jesus are true?

In these two passages, we get a sense of the 'bigness' (Colossians) and the 'smallness' (Philippians) of Jesus, and both are totally true simultaneously. (and both passages give us a taste of both!) This is the idea encapsulated in the title 'Emmanuel' – God *with us*. Creator and friend. Lord and brother. King and advocate.

For Application/Reflection

Q. How might a right view of the 'bigness' of Jesus give you boldness and encouragement in the challenges of serving this summer?

Q. How might a proper understanding of the 'smallness' of Jesus comfort and strengthen you as you serve this summer?

Q. How could you prepare to communicate these characteristics of Jesus to those you serve this summer? In a quiet time? Over a meal? What about to your team?

Colossians 1:13-22 – “He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.”

Philippians 2:1-11 – “So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”