

## Cell Outlines

Week beginning: 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007

### **Theme: Christ in us the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27)**

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**To Get Us Started:** What have to put into or onto your body in the last 24 hours?! Was it good or bad for it? How much time do you spend looking after yourself? Do you consider yourself to be self-indulgent or self-neglecting? Discuss over a cup of tea or coffee (and don't forget to add that to your list!)

#### **Word**

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Colosse during AD60, but never actually visited them as far as we know. It had received the Gospel through one of his converts, Epaphras (see Acts 1:7-8 & 19:10), whilst Paul stayed in neighbouring Ephesus during his 3 years there. Paul wrote to the Colossians to strengthen them in their faith in Christ and to help them to stand against various heresies, which were trying to damage the young church - so nothing's changed there!

- Now read Colossian 1:24-29 please.

Discussion questions -

1. 'Christ is in us' - what does that mean exactly? How would you describe that part of Col.1:27 to an unbeliever and their necessary response to it?
2. Why is the fact that Christ is in us the hope of glory?
3. Do you understand what Paul means by 'the hope of glory'? Do you have that assurance yourself? (Discuss)
4. What do you imagine 'glory' to be like? Does it match up to anything like Revelation 4, 5, 21 & 22?
5. Christ will only be within us if we have been born of the Spirit. How does that happen? (See John 3 & Revelation 3:20).
6. Some say 'Once saved always saved'. Do you disagree? If so, what does the Bible say and where?\*
7. If we have invited Christ to live within us what difference should that make? What Bible verses can you find to support this? (If you get stuck have a look at Colossians 3).

#### **Worship/ Prayer**

Spend some time thanking God for the undeserved mercy He shows to us in Jesus. Focus on Colossians 1:27 and invite Jesus Christ to be Lord of your life and not just a part. Pray for one another if any of you are struggling at this time too. Also, if any lack the assurance that they are going to 'glory'.

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#### **Witness**

As per Col.1:27 we should be people of hope. How can we demonstrate to those around us of this fact? Are we positive people with a 'can do' attitude or negative people who stunk the life out of others! Pray about this together. Also does your cell and its life reflect the glory of Christ or the hopelessness of the world?! Another opportunity for witness is our open-air baptismal service at Sutton on Sunday afternoon of 19<sup>th</sup> August. Please pray for this and come along if you can. Also is there anyone who is feeling the calling to be baptised in the cell group? If so, pray for them and ask them to contact Rev Mark.

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\*Beware - this is a heresy from the extreme Calvinists and prevalent in other parts of the church too. See Luke 9:62; Hebrews 6:4-12 & 10:26-31 & 39