

## MAIN POINT

*The gospel of Jesus Christ is not a matter of philosophical debate but revealed truth that impacts the most practical areas of obedience in our lives.*

## INTRODUCTION

What's one subject you are particularly interested in learning more about? How did you first become interested in that topic?

How is learning about Jesus and Christianity different than learning about another subject?

We live in a day and time of near limitless information, and our ability to gather that information is constantly growing. In recent years, we've gathered and consumed more and more information that has likely changed the way we've thought about certain things. As we know more about historical people and events, we change our view of them. As we learn more about how the world works together, we change our opinions and even laws to reflect that knowledge. But Christianity is different. The gospel of Jesus Christ is not a matter of philosophical debate but revealed truth that impacts the most practical areas of obedience in our lives. This is one of the main points Paul tried to emphasize in his letter to the church at Colossae.

## DISCUSSION

> READ COLOSSIANS 1:1-14.

The church in Colossae was in the middle of an urban area located in a valley that grouped three cities together. These cities were dependent on each other. It was also a large tourist area due to its beauty and the hot springs located there. With that background, what do you think the religious life of the city was like?

How might that religious climate compare to our own community? What are the similarities and differences?

Why do you think it's easy for us to intermingle false ideas of the truth with the gospel? How do you feel that temptation?

Why do you think Paul reminded the church he was an apostle of Jesus Christ, by God's will? What does it mean to be an apostle?

Paul thanked God for the Colossians because of their faith, love, and hope. Why are these characteristics hallmarks of the Christian faith?

How, in our culture today, is the concept of "truth" being challenged? Why is that kind of thinking a challenge to the gospel?

What are some of the things that stick out to you that Paul prayed for this church? Summarize his prayer in your own words. Why is that an appropriate prayer still to be prayed for churches today?

## APPLICATION

What are some practical ways you can demonstrate the faith, hope, and love that come as a result of believing the gospel?