

## Colossians 1:1-8

Pastor Don started his sermon with an Irish proverb.

**“1 mile of road has two miles of ditches”**

1. What does the proverb mean?
2. How does God use ‘ditches’ to keep us on the right track?
3. Do you know any Bible passages that are good examples of ‘ditch’ language?
4. The ditches that Pastor Don mentioned were ‘faith’ and ‘love’. How did he describe them and how do they function as ditches?
5. Pastor Don used the phrase “Hope firmly fixed on Jesus”. How can we assess if we have our hope fixed on Jesus?
6. Paul is the author of the letter to the Colossians. What do you know about the apostle Paul?
7. What qualities of Paul stand out to you? Also, what surprises you about why God choose to use him?

### **Gnosticism facts:**

1. Rather than faith in Christ being sufficient for salvation, we look inward to discover special knowledge (Gnosis). This knowledge leads us to know the greater god. Also it led to people thinking less highly about Jesus Christ.
2. The creator of the universe was actually a lesser god, not worthy to be compared to the greater god. The Gnostics completely separated the spiritual from the physical realm.
3. In light of #2, the conclusion was that all matter is corrupt and ultimately evil. Therefore, there are no restrictions with what we do with our bodies.

8. Take some time to make sure that the group understood what Pastor Don said about Gnosticism. The facts above might be helpful.
9. Why would Paul have written it was by the ‘will of God that he was an apostle’? (:1)
10. Who is Paul writing to? How does he describe them?
11. What did Paul mean when he said the Colossians were “in Christ”?
12. If Paul was writing to us and addressed the letter “in Christ, at Vernon”, why would that be important?

13. Is it possible that we could take it for granted what it means to be “in Christ”?
14. Verse 3-8 is one long sentence, have someone read the section. What stood out to you as the passage was read?
15. Paul writes that he has heard of YOUR faith and love, yet thanks GOD. Why is that appropriate?
16. What role had hope played in the lives of the Colossian believers?
17. Share examples of how hope has fuelled faith and love in your life?
18. What do the following passages teach us about the importance of hope? Hebrews 10:23-24; Hebrews 11:1, 24-26
19. How does hope connect to what is eternal or what is momentary?
- 20. What did this passage teach you about “keeping on track”?**
- 21. In light of this sermon series, how can the group pray for you?**