



PRAY
FREELY



RAISE
PASTORS



GO
OUT



LEARN
ALWAYS



CHURCH
AS FAMILY

The Direction of Discipleship.

GOD'S BIG PLAN FOR HUMANITY

In Colossians, we discover that the apostle Paul's ministry was shaped by a view of life lived on a spectrum of two kingdoms: The kingdom where Satan rules and the kingdom where Jesus rules. As it says in Colossians 1:13

'For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.'

In this way, the world is divided unfashionably into strict black and white. We need to be clear about this - know Christ, know life. No Christ, no life.

Then Paul also lets us into a little secret - the goal he aims at is God's big plan for humanity:

'We proclaim him [Jesus], admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labour, struggling with all his energy.' Col 1:28-29

Perfect, or 'finished', or 'mature' in Christ reflects God's purpose for everything. Visit Colossians 1:15-20 - all things made by him and for him. Or Ephesians 1:10 - 'to bring all things under one head, Christ'. Life under Jesus is God's big plan for humanity.

These two features brought together can be visually represent like this:

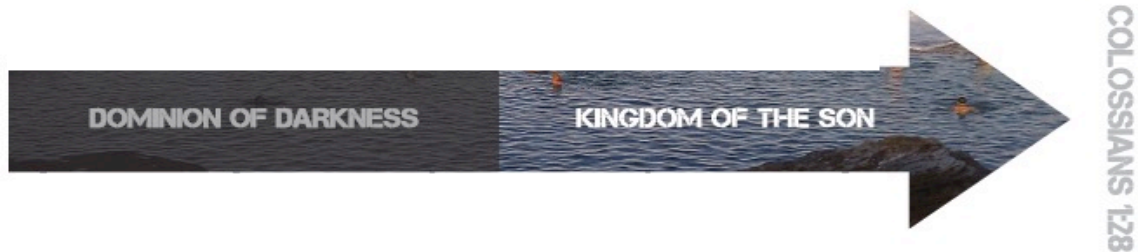


Every single person fits somewhere on this spectrum. Of course, no-one likes to be pigeon-holed - but we all believe in a doctor's diagnosis. Furthermore, God is not labeling people, but moving people forward in growth! As a result, the task of our

ministry is to diagnose where people are at and work with God to move people towards maturity in Christ, whether they are a total unbeliever or a mature Christian!

UNDERSTANDING THE PERSON YOU ARE DISCIPLING

Let's apply this directly. What is going on spiritually for the person you are meeting with? Or for your whole discipleship group? Where would you put them on the discipleship continuum below? Are they a believer, or an enquirer? That will affect things greatly. Are they new to the faith? Have they read the bible before? Are they struggling with particular knowledge issues? Or life issues? Or relational issues? Are they charging on an hungry to grow?



Why not write their name on the arrow above and write below a few things you think are going on for them. Even better to write what they tell you is going on for them!

TAILOR-MADE DISCIPLING OPTIONS

Now you can really work out what to do. Rather than just doing what you have done before, or seen others do, you can think from the person up. That's the obvious way. Let us give you some advice on areas of the bible that might help people are certain times. More of these will be given in a follow-up paper.

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| 1. Know Nothing of Christianity | Mark |
| 2. Know Some but Unsure about Christianity's Truth | Luke; 1 Corinthians 15 |
| 3. Know Some but Unsure about How it Lives out | Ephesians |
| 4. On the Verge of Committing to Christ | Mark's Gospel |
| 5. New Believer in Christ | Matthew; Colossians; 'Just for Starters' |
| 6. Needing to Clarify Key Ideas | 'Just for Starters' |
| 7. Needing to Challenge Their Focus | Philippians, Journalling |
| 8. Needing to grow in Prayer | Matthew 6; Journalling; PrayerMate app |
| 8. Needing to Challenge Entrenched Sin | Galatians 5-6:10 |
| 9. Wanting to Think through Service | 1 Corinthians 1-4, 12; Romans 12 |

NEXT STEP

We have given you here the 'why' of discipleship. The next question you may be asking is 'how?'. Follow up this paper by reading '**Direction of Discipleship for a Group**' and/or '**The How of 1-1**'.