



## **Jesus: Greater Than – A greater identity & a greater destiny**

**Date:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**Speakers:** Andrew McNeil

**Key Verses:** Colossians 1:1-14

### **Talk Summary**

- The Colossian church was under the influence of false teaching that Paul calls a “philosophy.” (2:8). He doesn’t answer the problems point by point. He combats it by challenging the Colossians limited and distorted worldview and he puts the spotlight on Jesus Christ.
- He affirms our identity and our destiny. We’re saints not sinners. Sin will explain some of what you do. Saint will explain the truth of who you are.
- Our identity comes from Christ via the gospel. It’s received not achieved. If you didn’t earn it then you can’t lose it. If it came to you as a gift then you can’t boast in it. That produces in our lives a humble, confident, hope.
- The new testament brings together faith, hope and love as the hallmarks of this new identity (3-4).
- When considering our purpose we can go the route of speculation, self-actualization or revelation. The truth is outside of us and it comes to us in a personal way in Jesus Christ (5-6).

- If we make the pursuit of happiness our goal it becomes ever elusive. We are invited into God's big story and Jesus will for our lives, expressed in general wisdom and specific assignments (1 Thes 4:3-4, 5:18, Ephesians 3:20)
- It is God's will that we walk worthy, bear fruit and grow in the knowledge of God (v10). We don't jump into relational health, financial health, or spiritual health. We walk into God's purposes step by step. Every good work includes my character and my contributions, my studies and my hobbies. It involves; Growing in the knowledge of God as we recognize He's the difference-maker in life and we're invited to get to know him.
- In summary:
  - Jesus' identity is greater than a self-generated identity (v2)
  - God's will for us is greater than some self-generated plan (v9-10)
  - Jesus' power is greater than that our self-effort (v11)

## Small Group Questions

- Sometimes our feelings are the arena where the enemy tries to undermine our identity. How have you combatted that?
- "Doesn't it honour Him more when we agree with God? Isn't it a greater form of humility to believe Him when He says we are precious in His sight when even if we don't feel very precious?" Bill Johnson
- See how many Biblical "identity statements" you can recall as a group. Is that a hard exercise to do?
- Of the three areas mentioned in verse 10 which one is God highlighting to me?
  - Walking worthy and pleasing him
  - Bearing fruit in every good work
  - Growing in the knowledge of God

## Helpful Resources

- The [Bible project](#) video - An overview of Colossians
- Recommended books:
  - The Big Ego Trip - Finding true significance in a culture of self-esteem. Glynn Harrison
  - A Better Story - God sex and human flourishing. Glynn Harrison