

**Be Reformed** – Open the bible: study, dig and ask what the main point of the passage is

**Be Charismatic** – Expect the Holy Spirit: ask God to speak, minister, build up and lead us to maturity

**Be Community** – Love God's people: share vulnerably, apply, pray and build each other up

**Be Missional** – Win the world: apply lessons to outreach, make content accessible to non-Christians

## Colossians 1:1-8

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, 5 because of the hope laid up

for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, 7 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf 8 and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

## Study Guide 1 January 2011 How the City of God Comes About



### Summary

God's Kingdom is often referred to as a City. While we are here on earth, we are to be a picture and reflection of God, even though we live in a state of imperfection.

Rudy Giuliani cut crime in New York by clamping down on crime on all levels – not by focusing on big-time criminals. It is the same with the church – the City and Kingdom of God comes from the holiness of each individual believer.

The City of God comes through "ordinary" Christians. Epaphras was one such person – neither apostle nor church leader, but wherever he went, he preached the gospel.

The City of God comes as God works through the message of the work that He has accomplished. It is not primarily a request to live by a set of rules, but a message of the reality of who God is and, as a result, what we must do if we believe this message is true.

The City of God grows as God's word is understood in greater depth. We want to be a church that is both open to those who are furthest from God, yet completely zealous for God's holiness and glory.

In practice, we would like to be zealous in our personal devotion to God. Holiness springs from the ground up – from the heart of every saint. We also want to be involved in the community of believers at RHC.

### Key points

The City of God comes through ordinary Christians who all preach the Gospel and grow in their depth of understanding of God's word.

### Questions

>>What freedom does Christ's authority bring to those who believe?

>>How much do we need to know in order to be able to preach the gospel?

>>How can I preach the gospel?

>>How can I grow in my depth of understanding of God's word and in my zeal for God?

### Final thoughts

Holiness in the church comes from Christ, through the life of each individual Christian. We are God's City – God wants you and I to be His Gospel and His Holiness and His Glory in the world.