



Growth Group Reflection Questions—May 30 – June 3

1. What are you looking forward to doing this summer?
2. Get into a good frame of mind by reading the sermon passage out loud, Colossians 1:9-10. Then pray for insight.
3. Darren said the following in the message: *"We will often want to do for others far more than we are capable of doing in our own power, and this 'canyon' will create anxiety."* Have you ever felt this anxiety before?
4. Review the five parts of "God's Great Big Wonderful Will." Did any elements strike you in a fresh way?
5. Look up the following verses and uncover the important theme that each one shares?
 - i. Rom. 12:1
 - ii. Rom. 14:18
 - iii. Eph. 5:10
 - iv. Phil. 2:12-14
6. How do you respond to Darren's observation that Christians are often their own worst "art critics"?
7. Read Colossians 4:2. Then take time to pray for those whom you care about. Pray in your own words that they would be filled with a knowledge of God's will.

"Heavenly Father, today I receive Jesus, your special person, into my heart, to reconcile me to you through his death on the cross. Include me in the people whom you are gathering, the purified people who will enjoy your presence in that perfect place for all eternity. Thank you for the peace we new enjoy. Amen"

e Believe

Someone Shine on the Big Stage

I. Two canyons that we can't cross to help someone on the big stage.

1. Maybe the canyon is just good **_boundaries_**.

Love is . . . not rude . . .

1 Corinthians 13:4

2. Maybe the canyon is plain-old **_bewilderment_**.

. . . no man knows the future . . .

Ecclesiastes 8:7

II. Five facts about life on the big stage.

1. Everyone's life is a **_solo_** act.
2. It's also a **_command_** performance.

It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it. My own hands stretched out the heavens; I marshaled their starry hosts.

Isaiah 45:12

3. Every performer makes a lightning-quick **_exit_**.

The length of our days is seventy years – or eighty, if we have the strength;

Psalms 90:10

4. Life's a **_series_** _____ drama, not a sit-com.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ . . .

2 Corinthians 5:10a

III. There's a powerful path across the canyon, an invisible, spiritual one, and it's this: In strong and simple trust, offer to God a specific and ongoing **_prayer_ _____ for those you care about.**

"Prayer is love."

--Augustine of Hippo

For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9 – 10

1. To help them shine on the big stage, pray Paul's **_style_** _____. Paul prayed with extreme **_energy_** _____ and **_intensity_** _____.

Epaphras, who is one of you and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends greetings. He is always wrestling in prayer for you . . .

Colossians 4:12

2. To help them shine on the big stage, pray Paul's **_substance_** _____.

God's Great Big Wonderful Will – Colossians 1:19 – 20

i. God wills for a **_person_** _____.

"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile . . ."

ii. God wills for a **_people_** _____.

". . . and through him to reconcile to himself all things,"

". . . a people that are his very own . . ."

Titus 2:14

iii. God wills for a **_place_** _____.

". . . whether things on earth or things in heaven . . ."

Before . . . you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Psalms 90:2

iv. God wills for a **_peace_** _____.

". . . by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

v. God wills for a **_presence_** _____.

Now the dwelling of God is with men . . .

Revelation 21:3

What happens when someone's life just "leaks" out this knowledge of God's great big wonderful will, flooding their thoughts, affections, purposes and plans? Their life becomes passionate, purposeful and **_praiseworthy_ _____ before God.**

Never confuse "pleasing" with **_perfect_ _____.**