

Colossians 1:1-2 & 15-20: Fruitfulness on the Frontline, The Big Picture.

Today we start our new series called 'Fruitfulness on the frontline' we are going to be using the letter written by Paul to the holy people at Colossae. We are going to discover how Paul defines what it means to be on the 'Frontline' ministry of the church. Now, Paul doesn't use the term 'Frontline' but he does allude to it throughout his writings.

Frontline is a military term, we only have to read or watch the news how the Ukrainian army is pushing the frontlines in the war with Russia, taking back territory that was once theirs. The occupying forces of Russia have a fight on their hands trying to contain the zealous Ukrainians.

So, what on earth has this got to do with us, why use a military term when thinking about being a Christian, and follower of Jesus?

It's a people who have chosen to follow Jesus, to give their allegiance to another kingdom and King, to live for something better, to be in Christ. It is an invitation to become part of a resistance movement that can change the world.

The Frontline is wherever we are, where we encounter others, our work, the school gates, the till at the supermarket and our next-door neighbour, wherever we can make a difference with a smile, a kind word or action, that is our frontline.

Being on the frontline is to be an ambassador of healing, forgiveness, a freedom fighter, a part of the resistance to the ways of this world, no longer living for ourselves but for others, making the appeal for others to be reconciled to God. The big picture for our frontline is fruitfulness, to live as agents of a better world full of the Holy Spirit producing the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

### Poem from 'Red Moon Rising, the story of 24/7 prayer' p213

Do you want to look for my fullness?  
Do you want to partner with me?  
Do you want to count for my kingdom?  
Do you want to see miracles and stand for justice?  
Do you want to see reconciliation and people set free?  
Do you want to see nations transformed by the power of prayer?  
Then come follow me, and I will show you where to go.  
It's not to the platform and the spot-lit speaker.  
It's not to the conference, the meeting, or the camp.  
Come with me to the darkest places.  
Come to the hurting, the howling, the hollow faces.  
Come with me to the addicted, convicted and the caught.  
Come with your light, run with your salt.  
Come to the sorrow, the suicide tree.  
Come to the stable --- Come follow me.

### Questions

- 1/ Have you ever considered that Christianity could be termed as resistance movement before? Why/why not?
- 2/ 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 tells us that we have been given the ministry of reconciliation, what does that mean for us on our frontlines?
- 3/ What comfort do we gain on our frontlines when we consider that Jesus is the firstborn over all creation, the head of the church, and the reconciler of the universe?
- 4/ Why is significant for Christians today who struggle to see that their lives are significant in light of these truths about Jesus?
- 5/ Reflecting on the Poem, how does it make you feel?