

Colossians 1.1-14

“ the grace of God in truth”

1st 10 minutes of Daily Email Check > Send Most Mail to Junk Box

While I SLEEP Advertisers of World > Lots of Things I gotta HAVE!

Maybe my Life WOULD be Wonderful if I tried All their WARES!

One Person’s TRASH is Another Person’s TREASURE

Tell MAMA Microsoft send those Buggers to Block Sender LIST

Stand before Letter NOT Ask FOR – OLD, Famous – Might Not WANT?

Urge you HEAR its Claims – Short Letter in Most Read Book in World

1. Trophies of God

v. 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus

Heb Name SAUL / Roman Citizen > PAUL / Pharisee from TARSUS

Claimed MET Jesus en route to Attacking Believers in DAMASCUS

Radical Conversion: from Killing Xtians to being KILLED for Christ

JESUS: Don’t Touch MY Peeps! In FACT You’ll become their LEADER

Appointed APOSTLE – SENT w/Authority to SPEAK for Risen JESUS

Writing from ROMAN PRISON – ‘rented house’ Luke describes Acts 28

v. 1 by the will of God,

AMAZING Grace – Worst ENEMY > Best EMMISARY of Gospel

“by the will of God” > God is Sovereign Gospel, Church, & World

He’s REAL DEAL > NOT get his Credentials ON-LINE > From JESUS

REMINDER of God’s Sovereign PURPOSE > Our GOOD, His GLORY

More SPECIFIC than General Providence > Loving Plans of FATHER

v. 2 To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

COLOSSAE 100 miles INLAND from Mediterranean Coast of TURKEY

Not IMPORTANT Town, THIS N.T. Letter only Reason we Know Town

Paul’s STRATEGY to Visit STRATEGIC Cities > Gospel Spreads OUT

Gospel FORMED New Family > Jewish Man writes GENTILE Converts

PRIMARY Identity IN X – Not IN Kohala, China Colossae, OR Family!

Spiritual Co-ordinates IN CHRIST More Impt than Geographical Markers

FORMER Pagan, Heathen, Polytheistic GENTILES – Now HOLY in X

SET Apart FROM Sin – BY God – FOR God

Called HOLY – NOT because they're SUPER Xtians > Have SUPER X!

vs. 7,8 just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Ephesus - 100 miles WEST of Colossae > Paul taught there 3 Years

Paul was... “reasoning daily in the hall of Tyrannus. This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks” Acts 19.8-10

Most Scholars think Epaphras HEARD Gospel from Paul in Ephesus

Planted churches Laodicea/Hierapolis/Colossae > Evangelist to Homies

Then SOMEHOW Epaphras MET Paul in Rome – Prison? Family?

RELATIONALLY 3-way Partnership: Paul, Epaphras, Colossians > TROPHIES of God

2. Truth of God

LETTER written by MAN who CLAIMS to Write VERY Words of GOD

GOD uses FAMILIAR Forms of Communication > Speak to People

Ancient World made COVENANTS > God used form Establish Relations

Greco/Roman form LETTER Writing > Apostles wrote Churches & Leaders

a. Word of Truth

v. 5 “Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel”

World w/ MANY Truths > God given ONE Truth, Way, Life > JESUS

Power of God delivered by Proclamation > Hear, Believe, and Follow!

IMPOSSIBLE to Preach Gospel WITHOUT Words

Faith comes by HEARING > When we Hear the WORD of Christ

Wants us RECEIVE this Letter as WORDS of Jesus > RED Letter Bible
 God-Breathed WORDS > Apostle WRITES Words of RISEN Jesus
 Hope U.R. DELIGHTED & DESIRING to Hear VOICE of Lord JESUS

Monday LINE in Costco HNL > Show RECEIPT to Person at DOOR
 NERVOUS Hide STOLEN Things in my SHOPPING Cart – JOKE!

Checker handed Receipt to Lady in Front of Me
 She LOOKED him Eye kindly said “God Bless You!”...
 Word brought LIFE – Big SMILE - Humble Thanks!

b. Message of Grace for the World

v. 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

Fulfills PROMISE of God to Abe > ALL Nations Blessed in Christ
 Small, Nowhere TOWN > IMPACT World by WITNESS & Intercession
 SAME News is Bearing FRUIT around Whole WORLD
 Church in Capital Most Populous Nation World > Members 100 Nations!
 GLOBAL Family in X: every nation, all tribes, peoples & languages

v. 6 “understood the grace of God in truth”

We make NO CLAIM on God – Best Efforts Fall Short of His GLORY
 GREAT News is GOD’S Commitment to US – Not OURS to Him
 God who ACCEPTS Us in Christ – God who DECIDES to Invite Us In
 We don’t MAKE Christ LORD – He IS Lord and we BOW Down to Him

National Xtian Council, Kenya: “Wherever the Word of God, the preaching of the Good News, went among the animistic tribal populations of Kenya, the response was instantaneous, immediate, & enormous”

3. Thankful to God

v. 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

GRACE of New Covenant / PEACE ‘Shalom’ OLD Covenant
 BOTH are OURS when we are IN COVENANT Maker/Fulfillment X

v. 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 Counter-Cultural > We NORMALLY Criticize before COMMEND
 Paul FOLLOWS Formula of 1st C Letterwriters > THANKSGIVING
 Thankful for More than JUST Bread, Sunshine, Roof over Head

MORE than FORMALITY: Sincere PRAISE 2 God 4 His Work in Col
 NOT for PERFORMANCE of Colossians > but POWER of X in Them!

NO Jealousy THAT Another Pastor has Thriving Ministry – NOT him

Jesus DIED to SAVE Church – He continues to BUILD It

Paul THANKFUL that God who BEGAN Good Work will COMPLETE

vs. 4,5 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,
 because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.

Pauline TRIAD > Faith, Love, Hope > His Most Basic Description Xtian
 3 Qualities NOT Natural to Fallen Sinners > EVIDENCE of God's Work
 FAITH – Born Again / New Creation / REASONING TRUST in Jesus
 LOVE – Supernatural – Patience, Mercy, Kindness, Unity, Forgiveness
 HOPE – Assurance God TRUE – Kingdom COMING – Power Triumph
 Paul Reminds CHURCH he's NOT YET Met > LOOK OUTWARD
 Focus NOT on SELVES > God, Brother & Sisters, Kingdom of Christ
 God the CREATOR called Workers to be FRUITFUL & FILL the Earth

v. 9 And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you,

When Paul met Pastor Epaphras & learned of church he served, Colossae

Paul ADDS these Believers to his LONG Prayer LIST

Connection btwen THANKFULNESS and Prayer > NEVER Stopped

NOTHING More BASIC to Xtian Life / Nothing More DIFFICULT
 Most IMPT mtg Kalahikiola is LEAST Attended > When Grows we Will
 Want to be FRUITFUL Leader in Church > Be FAITHFUL Prayer

More THANKFUL You ARE > LESS to Ask FOR > See what HAVE!

Paul May get to VISIT > Even MORE imp't VISITATION of God Himself

NOT just ZIP thru Prayer – Quickly Rattling list Names & Places

v. 9 asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;

Dwight MOODY “Every BIBLE should be Bound in SHOE Leather”

More & More, Fuller & Fuller > “increasing in the knowledge of God”

PAY Attention as Study LETTER > Living WORD will Study YOU

Balance btwn EXPERIENCE and EXPECTANCY > Discernment

Christ ALL Sufficient – FULLNESS in Him – Have HIM, Have ALL

2 Themes of Prayer > Knowledge and Power > both Found Fully in X

TODAY Xtians SEARCHING for NEWEST, BEST Place of Blessing

Newest Website, Worship Song, Preacher, Ministry, Experience, Gifting

HUNGER was Powerful in Colossae too – More than Jesus, Beyond Him

all spiritual wisdom and understanding...manner worthy of the Lord...

fully pleasing to him...bearing fruit in every good work...

increasing in the knowledge of God...being strengthened with all power

Different Aspects of ONE Request > EMPTY and Need to BE FILLED!

World SEARCHING > Many Claims & Answers > God's ANSWER

Not Secret, Sophisticated, or Selective > Everyone INVITED Freely!

HOW? according to his glorious might...HE qualified you!!

RESULT? Walk WORTHY of the Lord / Fully PLEASING to Him

EVIDENCE? Bearing FRUIT in Every Good WORK

1st GOSPEL Bears Fruit – Then Gospel-filled BELIEVERS Bear Fruit

v. 11 “being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might”

Glorious Description of POWER of God in LIFE of Believers in Christ

God's Work NOT Invisible, Mystical, Spiritual: VISIBLE & PRACTICAL

Being FILLED w X > SEEN IN being FULL of Good Works FOR Jesus

v. 11 “for all endurance and patience with joy”

Paul writes from PRISON Cell – No Facebook, Bad Food, Not Much FUN
Endurance & Patience > EMMANUEL was Bound to Him > REAL JOY
In the NORMAL, ORDINARY, DAILY Duties we Learn GOD is Faithful
God there amidst Shocks, Disappointments, Opposition > HE is our JOY

4. Triumph of God

a. He has Qualified Us

v. 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

All the CONDITIONS of Heaven have BEEN MET > FULL Standing
Given PLACE Among God’s CHOSEN People > UNION with Christ
FATHER Loves You – Like He Loves Jesus – Forever, Unending, Freely

No COACH on God’s Plane – Not even Business > ALL First Class Only
No GREATER Inheritance > Eternal, Abundant > Already QUALIFIED!
Based on UNION w/ Christ – 90 X’s / 13 NT Letters “in Christ”
We will see MORE & MORE in Colossians what that MEANS

b. He has Delivered Us

vs. 13,14 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Tyranny of Powers of DARKNESS > BROKEN – Never to RISE Again
Resurrection of Jesus RAVAGED of the ENEMY
REDEMPTION > SLAVES set Free > LIBERATED by Saving LOVE

John SELDON (1584-1654) HISTORIAN & LEGAL Scholar England
More than 500 yrs ago > LIBRARY of More than 8000 Volumes

When John Seldon LAY DYING told Family: “I have surveyed most of the learning that is among the sons of men, and my study is filled with books and manuscripts on various subjects. But at present, I cannot recollect any passage out of all my books and papers whereon I can rest my soul, save this from the sacred Scriptures: ‘The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men’” Titus 2.11

Jesus MORE than PERSONAL Savior – Don’t come to GARDEN Alone
Walks with ALL Children, TALKS to Them All Too – Family of FAITH

Full Forgiveness DEMANDS Breaking the POWER of Sin > Redemption
Took CROSS of Christ to Make us RIGHT with GOD
PRAY that YOU have been QUALIFIED & DELIVERED in Jesus Christ

Last weekend Dayna & I on Oahu w/ Christian FRIEND
Relative got TERRIBLE Cancer – Spreading – FATAL – Fast > Months
Wrote Kind Letter – I wish had CURE for Cancer – PRAY for You!
IF I had Cure, I’d be TERRIBLE Person to NOT Tell You what it Was

But I do KNOW how HAVE Eternal Life, Forever Joy, Blessing Heaven
Family ANGRY w/Our Friend > NOT Forgiven > RUINED their Life
RISK of our Friendship > URGE you to Find & Follow JESUS

Colossians 1. ¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father. ³We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶which 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, ⁷just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸and has made known to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.