

“Thanks & Prayer Pt. 2”
Colossians 1:1-14
10/15/23
Message 2

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Thanks & Prayer Pt.2”

- **Paul Purpose In Colossians**

- **1st Paul’s purpose in this letter to the church of Colosse.**

- NOTHING must distract from CHRIST

- Paul’s Letter to the Colossians is all about the

- **Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ**

- **2nd Frighten Church**

- **Epaphras the flounder and pastor of the church - Makes his way to Paul**

- He Informs Paul of the struggles in the church

- The Problem

- Many gods

- Being on a trade route, the city had a population of all kinds of people.
 - Roman coins from Colosse indicate the worship of numerous deities
 - Artemis
 - He-li-os
 - Demeter
 - Isis

- Ser-apis
- The Phrygian mystery religions like the worship of Cybele
- The Roman emperor worship
- As well as Judaism & Christianity

○ Gnosticism

- One of the heresies that was on the way to springing up would be known as Gnosticism
- Some have suggested that Gnosticism may have gotten it's start at Colosse.

○ Gnosticism –

- The word comes from the Greek gnosis, meaning “to know”
 - Gnostics were people “in the know”
 - They had Special Knowledge that only a few were privileged to have
 - They considered themselves the spiritual “know-it-alls” of the church.
 - They taught that to reach the height of spiritual maturity you needed to “know” their secrets and special rituals.
- *Wiersbe; To begin with, this heresy promised people such a close union with God that they would achieve a “spiritual perfection.” Spiritual fullness could be theirs only if they entered into the teachings and ceremonies prescribed.*
- We'll get to the specifics when we get into chapter 2

- Jewish legalism
 - You needed to be circumcised,
 - You needed to follow the Jewish dietary laws
 - You needed to observe all the Jewish feasts
 - All to be a Christian.
- All This is KNOWN as - The Colossian Heresy
 - All this make up what is known as the - The Colossian Heresy
 - It was the combination of several religious systems.
 - The teaching included elements of Jewish legalism (Col. 2:16-17),
 - Oriental mysticism (Col. 2:18-19)
 - Greek asceticism (Col. 2:20-23).
 - And even a little bit of Christianity to make it all right.
 - These false teachers didn't outright deny the Christian faith,
 - They only claimed to make it better.
 - WARNING –
 - We must be careful NOT to create a god in our own image
 - **Show Pic**

- It is possible to put emphasis on one attribute of God over others thus making a god in your own image
- SO - Paul's Purpose
 - Was to make sure they were grounded in TRUTH
 - Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ

• **A Suggested Outline of Colossians:**

- **Chapter 1**
 - Greeting / Gospel Message vs. 1-14
 - Jesus is Preeminent vs. 15-29
 - Before you get anything
 - You need to know who Jesus is and what He's done.
- **Chapter 2**
 - Dealing with heresy Gnosticism
 - Although not in its full form that it would take in the next century
 - It was none the less an early form of Gnosticism
 - Paul will deal head on with the errors of his day (and our day as well)
- **Chapters 3-4**
 - Practical living
 - Right doctrine leads to right living.

- **Now this morning we will look at 3 Wonderful Truths in Paul Greeting to the Colossians**

- Paul's Purpose vs. 1-2 – Covered Last Weel
- Paul's Thanks & Prayers vs. 3-11
- Paul's Praise To God vs. 12-14

Paul's Purpose vs. 1-2

- **First: Paul's Greeting v. 1**

- **1st Paul v. 1a**

Colossians 1:1 (NKJV)

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

- **1st Paul is the Author**

- BUT - During this time of imprisonment in Rome

- Paul wrote letters, called his "Prison Epistles"

- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- Philemon

- The year is around 60AD

- The church in Colosse is about 5 years old.

- **2nd An Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God v. 1b**

Colossians 1:1 (NKJV)

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

- **1st What is an Apostle?**

- The word "apostle" refers to "an official emissary sent to deliver a strategic message.
- Much like a member of the State Department sits down with someone from a foreign regime, and relays a Presidential message, they're functioning like an apostle.

▪ **2nd By the will of God**

- Paul was "an apostle... by the WILL of God..."
 - You don't run for election to become an apostle...
 - You don't earn the position by climbing the ladder...
 - The only way to be an apostle is if God wills it!

○ **3rd Timothy our brother v. 1c**

Colossians 1:1 (NKJV)

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

▪ Timothy

- Paul's Son in the faith
- Grandmother Lois
- Mother Eunice
- Father was Greek
- Ministered with Paul

○ **4th To the saints and faithful brethren v. 2a**

Colossians 1:2 (NKJV)

2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- Greek is hagios (hag'-ee-os)
 - Holy – Set Apart
 - If you are IN CHRIST – You are a Saint
- **5th Grace to you and peace v. 2c**

Colossians 1:2 (NKJV)

2 *To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse:* ***Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

- Grace & Peace
 - Was familiar but heartfelt greeting from Paul
 - Always Grace & Peace
- You know you can't have PEACE without knowing the GRACE of God!!!!

Paul's Thanks & Prayers vs. 3-11

• First: Thankfulness vs. 3-8

- **1st Thanks & Prayers v. 3**

Colossians 1:3 (NKJV)

3 *We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,*

- **We GIVE THANKS & PRAYER to GOD**
 - Address to Who?
 - God & Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- **Paul's Heart**

- Thankful
 - To God
 - For others
- Prays
 - Though he had never met most of them
 - The Christians of Colosse were on Paul's prayer list.
 - He prayed for them!
- **2nd WHY Paul was Thankful vs. 4-8**
 - **1st Since we heard of your Faith – Love for the Saints v. 4**

Colossians 1:4 (NKJV)

4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

- Faith – IN CHRIST
 - A Lot of People have FAITH
 - Maybe you have heard this – “All you Need is FAITH”
 - Well FAITH IN WHAT?
 - Genuine FAITH is IN CHRIST
 - Faith must be centered in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Since He can never fail, no one who trusts Him will ever be disappointed

- Jesus will always have a true love for God's people as a companion.

- **Your LOVE for the Saints**

- Genuine FAITH is IN CHRIST

- Will always have a true love for God's people!

- **2nd Because of the Hope v. 5**

Colossians 1:5 (NKJV)

5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

- **Hope in Heaven / God**

- IS Not I "Hope" it will be
- IT is HOPE and I KNOW it to be
- In Christ – You can count on the HOPE of HEAVEN

- **4th And is bringing forth fruit v. 6**

Colossians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

- **Has come to you – From a man**

- The church in Colosse came about because a man named Epaphras came and told them about Jesus Christ.
- Jesus gave us one thing to do before He left
(***Matthew 28:19-20***)

- **Bringing Forth Fruit – The Gospel**

- The gospel produces a result.
- People find faith in Christ and are saved
- Lives are changed.
- It's a powerful message – the power is in the message

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

▪ **5th Discipleship**

Colossians 1:7–8 (NKJV)

7 *as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear **fellow servant**, who is a ***faithful*** minister of Christ on your behalf,*

8 *who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.*

• **1st Fellow**

- Paul uses a word that talks about relationship.
- Epaphras wasn't a "lone ranger".
- He was connected to people.
- He was connected to Paul and to the Colossians.

• **2nd Servant**

- Being a servant requires humility.
 - It requires being more concerned for others than you are for yourself!
 - Being a servant requires getting up and doing things for other people.

- It's an action oriented word.
- Jesus said that being a servant was the most important thing that we could learn to do

Mark 10:42–45 (NKJV)

42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.

43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

- The man God uses is a servant.

- **3rd Faithful**

- The word speaks of faith – Epaphras was a man of faith.
- The word speaks of being faithful.
- You can count on him

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- Review - Who is the person God uses?
 - A Fellow = Connected to the true Church
 - A Servant
 - One who is faithful.

- **Second: Intercession vs. 9-11**

- **Context: How Paul prayed for the Colossian Christians**

- 1st To be filled with the knowledge of God's will v. 9
- 2nd To walk worthy of the Lord v. 10
- 3rd To be fruitful in every good work v. 10
- 4th To be increasing in their knowledge of God v. 10
- 5th To be strengthened for endurance and patience v. 11

○ **1st With the knowledge of His will:**

Colossians 1:9 (NKJV)

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

▪ **1st Prayed for You - Do not Cease to PRAY for you**

- We need to have this heart to pray for other believers

▪ **2nd Text**

• **Be Filled**

- Greek: Pleroo
- Meaning: To fill to the full
- Paul doesn't want the Colossians to just have a taste of God's will
 - He wants them to be filled with it.

• **With the Knowledge**

- Greek: Epignosis
- Means: Precise and correct knowledge; more thorough knowledge; knowledge based on experience
- Knowledge Of His WILL

• **Will**

- Greek: Thelema
- Means: Will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure

- **All Wisdom**

- Greek: Sophia
- Means: Wisdom is not just knowing facts, but knowing what to do with those facts.
- It's not the person who can win at a quiz show; it's a person who does the right things in life.
- Wisdom – Comes from God – Knowing HOW to apply the Knowledge we have

- **Spiritual Understanding**

- Greek: Pneumatikos
- Means: Relating to the human spirit or the Holy Spirit
- Understanding – a running together, critical understanding
- The ability to accumulate and organize principles from Scripture
- And “understanding” the application of those principles to daily living

- **Lesson – God's Will**

- **1st Teach me your paths**

Psalm 25:4–5 (NKJV)

4 Show me Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths.

5 Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation;
On You I wait all the day.

- **2nd Sanctification**

1 Thessalonians 4:3 (NKJV)

3 For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;

- **3rd Be Holy**

1 Peter 1:13–16 (NKJV)

13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

- **4th That All men to be saved**

1 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

- **2nd That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him v. 10a**

Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

- **Walk**

- Greek: Peripateo
- Means: (“around” + “to tread”) – to live your life

- **Worthy –**

- Greek: Axios

- Means: Suitably, in a manner worthy of / Scales
- **Pleasing –**
 - Greek: Areskeia
 - Means: desire to please; literally, “unto all pleasing”
- **What does it mean to walk worthy?**
 - Walk - NOT to EARN His love / Salvation
 - BUT to WALK Worthy in what He has already DONE
 - What has God done for us?
 - NOW live accordingly
 - **Death to Self (Roman 12)**

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV)

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- **Stop Sinning – Turn to**

1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 (NKJV)

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

- 3** *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;*
- 4** *that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,*
- 5** *not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;*
- 6** *that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.*
- 7** *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*
- 8** *Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.*

- **Unity / Use Gifts / Grow In Gods Word / Stable**

- (Ephesians 4)

- **Let Me SUM it up**

- God wants your life surrendered to HIM – ALL OF IT
- **3rd Being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God v. 10b**

Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)

10 *that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, **being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;***

- **2 More Ways from the text**

- 1st Do good works, to be fruitful in their good works.
 - DO Good Works
 - To be Fruitful
- 2nd Increasing In The Knowledge Of God
 - Increasing – Auxano – to cause to grow, become greater; “continually increasing”

- Back in verse 9, the issue was the knowledge of God's will.
- Here the issue is the knowledge of God
- MORE than just Information
- More than knowledge – Receive Knowledge of Him
- **4th Strengthened with all might v. 11**

Colossians 1:11 (NKJV)

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

- His strength is there to
 - Help us meet all of life's challenges
 - Endure and overcome problems with circumstances (patience) and people (longsuffering) with joy

1 Peter 5:10 (NKJV)

10 But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you.

- **5th Lesson – From Paul's Prayer**

- **1st Be Thankful**

Colossians 1:3 (NKJV)

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Colossians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

- Be Thankful

- **2nd Be Discipline**

Colossians 1:3 (NKJV)

3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

- Be Faithful

- **3rd Be Detailed**

- Notice What Paul prayed for
 - Knowing God's will
 - Walking worthy
 - Being fruitful
 - Knowing God better
 - Strengthened / Patience

Paul's Praise To God vs. 12-14

- **First: Giving Thanks to the Father v. 12a**

Colossians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

- **The Father is mentioned in connection with Salvation**
 - It is the Father who qualifies us,
 - NOT our own works.

- **Second: To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints vs. 12b**

Colossians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

○ **We gain this as an inheritance**

- Where Rust on Moths Can't Destroy
- Lesson
 - Please Remember
 - We are NOT Saved by works
 - BUT we are saved for works
 - What you do down here is sending a reward ahead

• **Third: He has delivered us from the power of darkness vs. 13a**

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

13 **He has delivered us from the power of darkness** and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

○ **1st The power of darkness**

- The power of darkness lulls us to sleep.
- The power of darkness is skilled at concealment
- The power of darkness afflicts and depresses man.
- The power of darkness can fascinate us
- The power of darkness emboldens some men
- God Has delivered US from this power – set us free!!!

○ **2nd He HAS Delivered US**

- Christians have been delivered from Satan's domain.

- The word has the idea of a rescue by a sovereign power.

- **Fourth: And conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love vs. 13b**

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.

- **Conveyed**

- Carried – Delivered
- In The Greek
 - It means “to draw to oneself” or “to rescue,”
 - Refers to the believer’s spiritual liberation by God from Satan’s kingdom

- **Fifth: In whom we have redemption through His blood v. 14**

Colossians 1:14 (NKJV)

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- Redemption has the idea of release by a legal ransom.
 - The price for our release was paid by the blood of Jesus.
- You HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN

Closing

- Let Us hold onto these wonderful promises from God