

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ *by the will of God*, and Timothy our brother
 - a) I wanted to take a break from our OT studies and spend time in the NT
 - 1) I want to share through the Book of Colossians

- II) AS WE BEGIN: The message of the gospel was not intended to be preached only in Israel
 - a) Jesus intended His message to be preached throughout the entire world
 - 1) Mt 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples *of all the nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them* to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen.

- III) IMAGINE: Jesus was telling 11 men who had never traveled *beyond their own borders* to go to the world
 - a) FACT: Israel was around 200 miles from the north to the south (Chino to San Luis Obispo)
 - 1) E to W It is 70 miles, the distance from San Bernardino to Barstow

- IV) THESE MEN: Were not seasoned travelers, yet they were to go out to *the entire world*
 - a) HOW: Jesus *trained* them, *taught* them scripture, *authorized* them, and gave them one more thing
 - 1) Ac 1:8 You shall *receive power* after the Holy Spirit has come upon you...
 - 2) THE MESSAGE SPREAD OUT: And many took the gospel into the known world

- V) V7-8 ONE SUCH PERSON: Was Epaphras, who planted the church in Colosse (Central Turkey)
 - a) Col 2:1 makes it clear that Paul was unknown by face to many of them

- VI) INCIDENTALLY: Epaphras is one of the *many* faithful but not famous believers in the bible
 - a) 2 Co 6:9 Paul used the phrase "as unknown, and yet well known"
 - 1) It is from Jesus we receive the words "well done good and faithful servant!" (Mt 25:21)
 - 2) Heb 6:10 God *is* not *unjust to forget* your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, *in that* you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

- VII) PAUL: Spent time in prison for preaching the gospel and made good use of his time
 - a) While imprisoned, he wrote several letters: Ephesians, Philemon, Philippians, and Colossians
 - 1) It was written somewhere around the years 60-62 AD.

- VIII) AS IS TRUE: With all of his letters, Paul had a purpose in writing this epistle
 - a) He wrote to warn the church against *error in doctrine* that was entering in to the church
 - 1) It was a religious system that combined Greek philosophy, Jewish legalism, and mysticism
 - 2) By watering down Christian truth, the effect was reducing Jesus to a Jewish philosopher

- IX) THE KEY VERSES: Col 2:4-10 These verses reveal the Preeminence of Christ
 - a) Paul wanted us to know we are rooted in Him, alive in Him, hidden in Him, and complete in Him

- X) COLOSSIANS: Is divided into *two sections*
 - a) Ch. 1-2 deal with doctrine (belief), and Ch. 3-4 give us its practical application (behavior)

- XI) V1-2 PAUL: An apostle of Jesus Christ *by the will of God* and Timothy our brother
 - a) NOTICE: An apostle, *by the will of God*: Paul was chosen while on the road to Damascus
 - 1) Ac 9:15 The Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my *chosen instrument* to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

- I) V1 AND TIMOTHY OUR BROTHER: Timothy was converted to Christ under the ministry of Paul

- a) Ac 16:1-3 (Paul wrote him 2 letters) Mother was Jewish, but his father was a Greek
- II) V2 TO THE *SAINTS* AND *FAITHFUL* BRETHREN: Grace (Greek) and Peace (Heb)
 - a) *SAINTS*: This is God's work, as He sets us apart to serve Him
 - 1) IN THE NT: One who trusts in God's promises; one who is convinced that Jesus has been raised from the dead and has become convinced that Jesus is the Messiah and author of salvation
- III) *FAITHFUL*: Man's side of salvation: The faithful are those who have trusted Jesus for salvation
 - a) COMBINATION: *God* sets us apart, but we *by faith* are *faithful to Him* as we serve Him
 - 1) 1 Ti 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because *He counted me faithful*, putting *me* into the ministry
- IV) V3-5 WE GIVE THANKS TO THE GOD: And father of the Lord Jesus Christ *praying always for you*
 - a) *WHY*: Because they have been saved and their church has a *tremendous testimony*
 - 1) NOTICE: Paul had *heard* of their faith, love, and hope that motivated their lives
- V) THE FACT IS: Their reputation had preceded them as Epaphras had given Paul a good report
 - a) All churches have reputations: all churches have testimonies
 - 1) The Romans were evangelistic; the Thessalonians were faithful under fire, Corinthians carnal
- VI) THEIR REPUTATION HAD PRECEDED THEM: And Paul rejoiced to hear how they lived for Jesus
 - a) FACT: Faith in Jesus and love for Him and others reveals that you are truly saved
 - 1) This is how people know that you are actually a Christian
 - 2) 1 Jn 3:23 This is his commandment, That we should *believe* on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, *and love* one another, as he gave us commandment.
- VII) KEY: You will not have *Biblical* faith or *genuine love* without accurate bible teaching
 - a) REMEMBER: False teachers are undermining this foundation, so Paul is addressing it
 - 1) Teaching God's word accurately actually provides the foundation of faith, love, and hope
 - 2) 2 Ti 1:13 What *you heard from me*, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.
- VIII) V5 *BECAUSE*: Of *the hope* which is *laid up for you* in *heaven* of which you heard before in the word
 - a) *HOPE*: Is a confident expectation that has an element of future fulfillment, in Heaven
 - 1) We believe and trust that Jesus rose from the dead: In Him, we end up winning! We have hope
 - 2) 1 Pe 1:3-4 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a *living hope* through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade-- *kept in heaven for you*
- IX) GOD: Has given to us an inheritance that is truly inspiring: fellowship with Jesus for eternity
 - a) *HOPE*: Will never perish, unlike things of this age: it does not rot or decay; it is permanent
 - 1) It does not spoil, nor does it fade: it is pure, spotless, and does not wither *like mother's day flowers*
 - 2) It is kept, (reserved, guarded, protected, put aside) just for us by God Himself
- X) V5b OF WHICH: You heard before in the word of the *truth of the gospel*
 - a) KEY: We have hope because *we can trust the message* of the gospel because it is *true*
 - l) POINT: You can trust the gospel because it is true

- a) Eph 1:13 You also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.
 - b) Jn 17:17 Sanctify them in Your truth. Your word is truth
- II) V6-8 WHICH: Has come to you as it has also in *all the world* and is *bringing forth fruit*
- a) They believed the gospel was the word of truth, shared it, and people were getting saved
 - 1) It revealed God's grace to sinners, and won people's hearts and produced *God's love in them*
 - 2) Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love (the earmark of a believer)
 - 3) KEY: Epaphras spoke to Paul, and shared this report with him
- III) V9-14 FOR *THIS REASON*: We also, since the day we heard it do not cease to pray for you
- a) FOR *WHAT REASON*: They had a reputation for *faith, love, and hope*
 - 1) POINT: God is producing fruit in your midst, so we continue praying for you
- IV) WHAT IS HE PRAYING FOR: That they may be *filled with the knowledge of his will*
- a) *Knowledge* of God's will can only be *Spiritually* imparted as they seek the Lord and His word
 - 1) Jn 16:13 When he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into *all* truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come
 - 2) Ps 1:1-3 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. But *his delight is in the law of the LORD*, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.
- V) V10 SECOND: That you may have a walk worthy of the Lord (right belief produces right behavior)
- a) WORTHY: After a godly sort, appropriately, suitably
 - 1) 3 Jn 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children *walk in truth*.
- VI) V10 WHAT DEFINES A WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD: *Fully pleasing Him*
- a) HOW: By being fruitful in every *good work* and increasing in the *knowledge of God*
 - 1) By taking His word and applying it, they will progressively increase in experiential knowledge
- VII) V11 HOW IS THIS MADE POSSIBLE? *Strengthened with all might* according to His glorious power
- a) This endowment of power will enable them to live victoriously, through suffering and opposition
- VIII) V12 *GIVING THANKS TO THE FATHER*: Who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance
- a) POINT: If God has given us His grace, then our response to Him must be thankfulness
 - 1) He has made us qualified (suitable) to be partakers through our relationship to His Son
- IX) V13 HE HAS: *Delivered us* from the *power of darkness* and translated us into the kingdom of the Son:
- a) He has delivered, or rescued us: To draw to oneself
 - 1) Heb 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil-- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
- X) WHEN HE RESCUED US: He also translated, or transferred us: Now we are God's children
- a) We are now Citizens of Heaven and our lives demonstrate that: Like Americans abroad!
- I) V14 IN WHOM WE HAVE *REDEMPTION*: We are redeemed from sin
- a) We were in bondage, but have been purchased.

- 1) Satan holds us under bondage until our sins are blotted out. The price paid is his blood
- 2) Heb. 9:12 He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption.

II) THE KEY: Those redeemed are forgiven, and can fellowship with God and people

a) Through Jesus, we now have forgiveness of sins

1) 1 Jn 1:7-9 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.