

## Colossians 1:1-14

### The Gospel Impact

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,  
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.  
3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, 4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 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, 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; 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. 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; 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; 11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. **Pray**

**In Leonardo Da Vinci's painting – the last supper - our Lord's hands are empty! –**

**❖ Therein lies an inspiring story!**

Da Vinci's **dedicated 3 years to this painting, that he determined that it would be his crowning work.**

Before the unveiling, he decided to show it to a friend, for whom he had the utmost respect. The friend's praise was great, **and** there was something in the painting that really stood out to him **'The cup in Jesus' hand,' he said, 'is especially beautiful.'**

That statement disappointed Da Vinci, and he set at once to **paint out the cup**. Astonished, the friend asked for an explanation. Da Vinci explained 'Nothing, must distract from the figure of Christ.' Da Vinci wanted the attention focused solely on Jesus!

**That is also the AIM and sentiment of this Letter to the church in Colossae.**

A) **The aim of the letter to the Colossians is: To remove all the distractions and put the beauty, the majesty, the wonder and sufficiency of Jesus Christ – **Front and center!****

B) **The theme of the book of Colossians is the sufficiency of Christ –**

1) **the idea that Jesus is more than enough to meet the needs of men!**

**The reason this letter was written is there was a problem that was going on in the first century that is equally true in our age today.**

A) **There were teachers circulating through the area declaring that Jesus was great – but not enough – Challenged the Sufficiency of Christ**

B) **Since the city of Colossae was on a trade route – they were a natural prey to these ideas that would come circulating through the area**

C) **A belief called Gnosticism was in its infant stages – but it had the potential to undermine their faith in Christ -**

1) **Talk more about Gnosticism in a later study**

**The book of Colossians was written to combat those ideas**

A) **If you thumb through this epistle, you will see that it is only 4 chapters long, 95 verses in totality – read it in 10 min.**

B) **Way less information than what you find in the average Sport or Home magazine article.**

C) **But what these 95 verses contain is absolutely life changing**

**D) The Information from this little Book has kept Churches on track and followers of Jesus spiritually fulfilled and healthy for 1,000's of years!**

## V.1 We Meet the Author – Inspiration – human instruments

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

A)The interesting thing about Paul is that before He was Paul the Apostle – he was known as Saul of Tarsus

B)**A deeply religious man** – Pharisee – studied the law of God –

1)Saul of Tarsus had trained in the best schools and was considered an expert in the law of God!

C)**Saul of Tarsus was not a fan of Jesus.** – To Saul Jesus was a threat to Judaism rather than the fulfillment of it – **which is what Jesus claimed.**

1)Most Christians were scarred of Paul.

**He would go into cities – have followers of Jesus arrested, He had some of them killed.**

A)HE was On such a mission heading to the city of Damascus – Acts 9

B)when Paul had an encounter with the Risen Jesus that changed everything.

C)**Bright light – blinded –He heard these words “Saul Saul, why are you persecuting me.”**

1)Response: Who are you Lord – what do you want me to do! – Passion and Pursuit

**Saul became a Believer at that moment**

A)The Mission and passion of his life – **Know Jesus and to make Him known!**

B)Timothy was his young protégé - together they went out preaching the gospel

C)The gospel simply means **GOODNEWS** -

**The term gospel was often used in classical Greek Culture to speak of the report of victory brought back from the battlefield.**

A)**GOODNEWS – WE WON THE BATTLE – VICTORY IS OURS**

B)Tonight - I want us to see what Paul tells us about the gospel in these introductory verses of Colossians

C)Like a **symphony Two stanza’s** with a bridge in the middle

**You can Hear the excitement in Paul’s voice – Begins the First Stanza – in V.3 with the Phrase - We give thanks**

A)We hear it again in the **2<sup>nd</sup> stanza** that starts in V.12 - **Giving thanks**

B)Paul is excited about the impact that the gospel had on the city and people of Colossae.

**C)In this opening verses we will consider - What the Gospel is ?**

1)And what the Gospel does

**What is the Gospel?**

A)#1 V.5 It is the word of Truth:

**V.3 “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, <sup>4</sup>since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; <sup>5</sup>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,”****

B)When Paul thinks of the believers in Colossae he is overjoyed of the impact the gospel has had on them

C)**He commends them for their faith in Jesus, their love for the each other -**

1)And the Hope that they live with in the midst of a world filled with so much hopelessness

**But I want you to notice how he defines the gospel V5b**

A)**The Gospel is THE WORD OF TRUTH – NOT A – THE WORD**

B)**Truth about man’s condition: Doctor – Cancer – not a cold**

C)Bible declares – Man is a sinner – **“All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.”**- Romans 3:23 missed the mark – Archery

Cc)Adam first man – sin entered the world – affected us all

D)**Sinners are Ungodly - what does ungodly mean?**

**E) Godly** = perfect - anything that is not perfect is ungodly- that is all of us.

1) I am a sinner - you are a sinner

**That is all of us – it doesn't take long after we are born to figure that out**

A) Babies are born – **He is perfect – She is perfect**

B) It doesn't take very long to discover NOT perfect

C) Terrible two's - what is happening - their sin nature is being manifest

1) Selfishness - their propensity toward rebellion

D) We are not sinners because we sin - we sin because we are sinners - built into our fallen nature

**Our Sin separated us from God**

A) Wages of sin is death ..... surely die!

**B) Wait I thought you said – Gospel meant good news – Doesn't sound good**

C) The Good news – although - SIN SEPARATED US – JESUS CAME TO DIE IN OUR PLACE –

**See GOSPEL IS CENTERED IN A PERSON**

A) Jesus declared – John 8 **You will know the truth and the truth will set you free -**

Aa) make it very clear – John 14 He declared - **I am the way the truth and the Life -**

**B) NOW When someone predicts their own murder – but also predicts that three days later they will rise from the dead.**

**They DO JUST THAT**

1) We BELIEVE THAT PERSON IS WORTH FOLLOWING!

C) So the Gospel reveals the truth to us about how to be made right with God!

**V. 6 It is the TRUTH for all the world**

6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world,

**I have been blessed to travel around the world - common theme.**

A) People realize they are sinners - guilty - they are not right with God –

**B) Africa, Middle East, Europe, Eastern Europe Central and South America - Russia, AUS, NZ**

C) Universal problem - the Gospel is the Universal answer

**It is a message that transcends time and place.**

A) John 3:16 – **For God so loved the world that He gave.....**

B) The death of Christ on the Cross – was not limited in it's scope – **it was for the sins of the world**

C) However – **it is limited in it's application** – It is limited to those who believe!

**V.6 It a message of grace**

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;

A) **Grace = receiving undeserved favor.**

B) We deserved judgment but God showed us grace.

1) We expect **a just judge** to carry out the law -

C) Murderer gets off on a technicality we scream unfair

E) **God is a just Judge** – Couldn't wink at sin

1) But in his GRACE He sent Jesus to take the punishment that we deserved!

**PAUL'S INTRO – GRACE AND PEACE –**

**GRACE IS WHO GOD IS AND PEACE IS THE RESULT OF KNOWING HIM!**

❖ God's Riches At Christ Expense

**What is THE GOSPEL**

❖ V.5 It is the word of Truth!

❖ V. 6 It is for all the world!

❖ V.6 It a message of grace!

**V. 7 The gospel is humanly transferred:** - 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.

A) Epaphras was saved on a trip to Ephesus when he heard Paul preach

B) Then he took the message home to his friends in Colossae - the first church there met in his house

C) Paul would say in Romans 10- **I am not ashamed of the gospel - Power of God for salvation.....**

**Power in the gospel message - Deliver it !**

A) Message – You just inherited \$ 10 million – No power in the messenger – tell him go get it

B) the power is in the message – You go to the bank to claim it

**C) We have been given the most powerful message in the world - we just need to share it**

1) Power to transform lives

D) God has chosen to use Human instruments like Epaphras - like you and me -

1) to share this transforming truth.

**God has chosen - people to be the bearers of the good news**

A) Cornelius Acts 10 - An angel appears to him to tell him that God has heard his prayers

B) But tells him to send men to Joppa - to go and get a guy named Peter - Peter will share what .... Do

C) The Angel could have told him about Jesus and how to be saved - But God chose Peter

1) He works through Human instruments

D) Share the Gospel!

**What the gospel is:**

- ❖ V.5 It is the word of Truth!
- ❖ V. 6 It is for all the world!
- ❖ V.6 It a message of grace!
- ❖ V.7-8 It is humanly transferred!

**One more thing I want you to note about the gospel**

A) The gospel is something we are to grow in our knowledge and understanding and application of

B) The Bridge of the song

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

**Paul says here: We are so thankful for your faith, hope and love**

A) But we pray that the reality of the gospel would grow and expand in your lives.

B) Filled with Knowledge of who God is -

C) Walk worthy of your calling - Your walk should weigh as much as your profession - Identity

D) Be who you are in Jesus ... were in the flesh

**The effects of the gospel and Jesus being in your life would produce - Spiritual fruit**

A) The fruit of the Holy Spirit would be active in you

B) Can always tell a tree by its fruit

**C) That you would walk in the strength power and patience that is yours in Christ.**

D) Catch this: The gospel is not just a truth that we embrace - for salvation

1) It is the truth that we are to continue to grow in and have our lives shaped by.

E) As Our lives become more surrendered to Jesus on a daily basis -

1) we grow in the gospel impact on our lives

**2<sup>nd</sup> Stanza: What the Gospel does: Really Builds 5 things the gospel does in us and for us!**

**V.12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, <sup>14</sup> in whom we**

have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

### 1<sup>st</sup> V.12 Qualified us!

A) We are familiar with the term as it relates to be approved for a house or car loan or being approved for a college.

B) The Greek word for qualified means - means to authorize, to make sufficient, to empower.

What Paul is saying here is that God has given His stamp of approval, / His authorization, for the Believer to be in the Kingdom – His inheritance

A) You have been qualified to be a part of the family of GOD !!!!

B) NOTE THE emphasis here is on this being a work of God, *Giving thanks to the father .....*

1) it is God and God alone who has qualified you for the Kingdom.

C) It is the opposite of being accepted for the college, or approved for the house loan or car loan /

D) IN those things the emphasis is on your academic achievements or your Credit SCORE & bill paying History

You are qualified based on your performance over a long period of time

A) but here the emphasis is on God's performance – what he did for you.

B) When we were spiritually bankrupt / when our moral performance fell way below the grade –

1) God's Standard of perfection- God sent his Son !!!

C) To come and do for us what we could not do for ourselves - we could not qualify ourselves

1) That is what separates Christianity from other religions

### What the Gospel Does

- ❖ Qualifies us
- ❖ Delivered us from the power of Darkness

A) The power of darkness would encompass the Power of Sin – the Devil – the power of our flesh

B) We have been delivered from that! We have freedom in Christ

C) We can walk in Freedom and power because of what Jesus has done for us

1) No longer in bondage to fleshly appetites

### What the Gospel Does?

- ❖ Qualifies us
- ❖ Delivered us from the power of Darkness
- ❖ Conveyed -Transferred – Taken out one thing put in another

A) Transferred – One kingdom and put in another

B) Transferred from the kingdom of darkness and into the Kingdom of his love

C) We belong to a new Kingdom - this world is not our home

### In fact go back to the Introduction V.1-2

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse:

A) V.2 In Colossae – in Christ

B) They were living in Colossae like you live in Vista, OCSD, ESCO, SM, CB FB Bonsall -

C) IN the world but not of the world

It is one thing to be delivered from one Kingdom - set free - it is another to be brought in.

A) We have been rescued to belong

### What the Gospel Does?

- ❖ Qualifies us
- ❖ Delivered us from the power of Darkness
- ❖ Conveyed -Transferred – Taken out one thing put in another

But he continues - it continues to Build

in whom we have redemption through His blood,

A) V.14 Redeemed us–

B) Redeem = to buy at a price - to pay off the Ransom –

**A)May we walk in the reality of this blessed truth**

**B)And may we share this glorious news -  
whenever and where ever - we can - AMEN!**

**C)So this is what I want you to catch - Jesus  
didn't just come and break us out of bondage -  
1)Now we are free - wanted fugitives - price on our  
head**

**D)That wouldn't be so great - fugitives always  
looking over our shoulder -**

1)Always wondering when we would get caught  
again

**E)No the way that Jesus rescued us - and  
delivered us - is he paid the RANSOM  
1)He had to die - his blood had to be shed**

**HE paid the debt that we owed!**

**A)He paid for our sin**

**B)So we are delivered from Bondage - taken out  
of the kingdom of darkness**

**C)And we are welcome into His Kingdom - as  
beloved sons and daughters**

**But here is the catch: The one that we sinned  
against was Him.**

**A)We broke his law - we broke his heart - that is  
what turned us over to the Kingdom of darkness**

**B)We chose that in our rebellion against him**

**C)But when we realize that - we cry out to him  
for salvation - He responds - He came to our  
rescue**

1)We are delivered - we are brought in we are  
qualified

**D)That is what the gospel does - to us and for us**

**But there is one more thing Paul shares that it  
does**

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

**A)We are forgiven.**

**B)God brings us in and says - Your sins are  
forgiven and forgotten**

**C)Put out of His remembrance**

**Precious Church - that is what the Gospel is - and  
that is what the Gospel does**