

COLOSSIANS – 1:1-8

“...ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:”

- Colossians 1:5-6

1. 1:1-2 - The Greeting

- a. Paul's apostleship - One of his biggest ministry issues - 2 Cor 11:23-31, 1 Tim 2:7
- b. "by the will of God" not of men - Gal 1:1, 11-12, 20 - Col 1:25
- c. Timothy - Was a close companion with Paul, but would fight shame - 2 Tim 1:7
- d. All of Paul's epistles perfect a lack (1 Ths 3:10) - there is a problem in Colosse
- e. "saints and faithful brethren" - saints are not perfect, they're sanctified - Eph 4:12
- f. Sanctified Corinthians - 1 Cor 3:1-2 and 6:11, 1 Cor 1:2

2. 1:3-4 - Paul's Sincerity

- a. Giving thanks, first of all - 1 Tim 2:1, 1 Thess 5:17-18
 - i. Thankfulness is part of the risen life in Christ - Col 3:17
 - ii. Thanks requires humility and a sense of obligation - 2 Cor 5:14-15
 - iii. The thankful mind begets charity - 1 Cor 13:4 and Phil 2:3-4
- b. Praying always for you - this is not magical, it is practical - Phil 1:9-11
- c. Faith in Christ Jesus - they had a knowledge and belief, yet something was amiss

3. 1:5-6 - The Hope and Truth

- a. Hope is not a wish *def.* The unseen expectation of good evidenced by faith
- b. The hope described by their faith: the Lord Jesus - 1 Tim 1:1, Titus 2:13, Col 1:27
 - i. Hope is also their destiny: eternal life - Titus 1:2, 3:7, 1 Cor 15:19
 - ii. "laid up" and "reserved" - Col 1:4 *vs* 1 Pet 1:3-4
 - iii. Hope of Israel *vs.* hope of the BoC: Acts 28:20 (also Acts 23:6, 24:14 26:6)
- c. The gospel requires words! - 1:5, Rom 10:17, Eph 1:13, 1 Thess 2:13
- d. "all the world" - Mat 24:14, 28:19, Mark 16:15 *compared to* Rom 16:25, Col 1:6, 23
- e. Fruit and the gospel - It works, if it is worked. It is profitable. Rom 6:21-22
- f. There is a gain in godliness - 1 Tim 4:8, 6:5-6

4. 1:7-8 - A Faithful Minister

- a. Epaphras - Only mentioned three times - 1:7, 4:12, Phm 23
- b. Faithful ministers - Faithfulness is highly valued by God - 2 Tim 2:2
- c. It is required in stewards - 1 Cor 4:2
- d. How to do it? It requires integrity - 1 Tim 4:6, Titus 1:9, Eph 4:15
- e. Love in the Spirit - love is part of the fruit of the Spirit walk - Gal 5:22, 2 Tim 1:7