

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005



## THE POWER OF TRUTH TO CHANGE LIVES

### Colossians 1.1-8

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

*To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse:*

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father.*

*We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints -- the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.” Colossians 1.1-8*

What you believe matters. What you believe has a significant influence on how you behave. Just look at the current events now transpiring in our nation and around the world.

The message of the book of Colossians centers on having a **right view of Christ** and on how to **live the Christian life**.

Colossians proclaims the **absolute supremacy** and **sole sufficiency** of Jesus Christ (cf. esp. 1.18; 2.9; 3.11).

- ⇒ He is God's Son (1.14), the object of the Christian's faith (1.4), the Redeemer (1.14), the image of God (1.15), Lord of creation (1.15), head of the church (1.18), and reconciler of the universe (1.20).
- ⇒ In him dwells the fullness of the Godhead (2.9), and under him every power and authority in the universe is subjected (2.10).
- ⇒ He is the essence of the mystery of God (2.3), and in him all God's treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden (2.3).
- ⇒ He is the standard by which all religious teaching is to be measured (2.8) and the reality of the truth foreshadowed by the regulations and rituals of the old covenant (2.7). By his cross he conquered the cosmic powers of evil (2.15), and following his resurrection he was enthroned at the right hand of God (3.1).
- ⇒ Our life now lies hidden with God in Christ, but one day both he and we will be gloriously manifested (3.3, 4).

The focus of our text today is the power of the truth of Christ to change us. After this greeting, Paul turns his attention to how the gospel had changed the people of Colosse.

## 1. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TRANSFORMS YOUR ATTITUDES

⇒ The truth of the gospel transforms your attitudes. And the first attitudinal change that Paul sees is the emergence of faith. When you receive the truth of the gospel you now can stand by faith.

*"...we have heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus and of **the love you have** for all the saints..."*  
1.4

*"A new command I give you: **Love one another**. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*  
John 13.34-35

*"If anyone says, "I love God," yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. 1 John 4.20*

⇒ Additionally, you can now rest in hope. We stand in faith, walk in love, and rest in hope.

*"...the faith and love **that spring from the hope** that is stored up for you in heaven..."* 1.5

*"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.**"* 1 Peter 1.3-4

*"I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us."* Romans 8.18

## 2. THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TRANSFORMS YOUR ACTIONS

⇒ The truth of the gospel of Christ transforms our attitudes and it also transforms our actions. Changed attitudes result in changed actions. What begins to work on the inside of us also begins to show on the outside.

*"All over the world this gospel is **bearing fruit and growing**, just as it has been doing **among you** since the day you heard it..."* 1.6

*"For those God foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed** to the **likeness of his Son**."*  
Romans 8.29

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*  
Acts 1.8