

The Way It Is, Then And Now

Colossians 1:1-8

Intro:

- A. "Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother."
 - 1. Paul writes this letter from prison.
 - 2. He is an Apostle of Jesus Christ.
 - 3. This is, "by the will of God".
 - 4. "Will" = θελημα = "wish", "desire", "what one desires".
 - 5. Timothy is not an Apostle, he is a brother.

- B. "To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse:"
 - 1. "Saint" = ἅγιος = holy ones, How?
 - 2. "Faithful" = πιστος = "one on whom we may rely", "trustworthy".
 - 3. "devoted and steadfast..." Gspd

- C. Colosse, the city.
 - 1. One of a long - string of cities located in the valley of Lycus. "Phrygian Cities".
 - 2. Paul had been instrumental in their being established as a church.
 - 3. Other near cities were Ephesus, Antioch, Laodicea, Lystra.
 - 4. There no statistics given. No mention of church size, buildings, ministries, offerings, etc.

- D. "...grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
 - 1. Two spiritual blessings, grace and peace.
 - 2. The source, God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

I. Paul And His Prayer of Thanksgiving.

- A. Vs. 3 "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,"
 - 1. "Thanks" = ευχαριστω = "to show one's self grateful".
 - 2. "We never fail to thank God". - TCNT

- B. Vs. 4a "Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus,"
1. "Heard" = ακουω = "to learn by hearing".
 2. "for what we have heard" Gspd
 3. They were "faith" people.
 4. Again, not their size, accomplishments.
- C. Vs. 4b "...and of the love which ye have to all the saints."
1. "...the love which you cherish". - Wey
 2. "...for all His people". - TCNT
- D. Vs. 5 "For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven..."
1. "Hope" = ελπις = "gladly held prospect of a future good".
 2. "Laid up" = αποκειμαι = "to be laid away", "to be in store for."
- E. These church members were what God wanted them to be.
1. They were holy.
 2. They possessed the three remaining spiritual gifts, faith, love, and hope.
 3. They were saved by faith and it was the ground upon which they stood.
 4. They loved, the gift by which they served.
 5. They had hope, the gift by which they were sustained.
- F. The Source of their Graces.
1. "...whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;"
 2. They had heard.
 3. They had heard the word of truth.
 4. They had heard the "good message".

II. The Power of the Word.

- A. Vs. 6 "Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world..."
1. "For it has reached you... Wey
 2. How did it reach them? Preaching!
 3. Epaphras - Vs 7.
- B. "and bring forth fruit, as it doth also in you,"
1. "Bring forth fruit" = καρποφορω = "to bear fruit".

2. αυξαιω = "to increase by growing".
3. "bearing fruit and growing"
4. Matt. 13:23

- C. "since the day ye heard it, and knew the grace of God in truth;
1. When they heard, they believed.
 2. They recognized the good news as a message of truth from God.

III. The Preacher of Truth.

- A. Vs. 7 "As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellow servant..."
1. "Learned" = μαθηταιω = "to learn from others by teaching, by studying, or by observation".
 2. "And thus you were taught by Epaphras my fellow-bondsman" - Con
- B. "...who is a faithful minister of Christ."
1. "Faithful" = πιστος = "trustworthy", "reliable".
 2. "Minister" = διακονος = "servant".
- C. Vs. 8 "who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit."
1. "Declared" = δηλωω = "to make plain", "to make clear".
 2. Their love was anchored in and sprang from the Holy Spirit. It was not personal sympathy, or love based on one's kinship.
 3. This was from God and directed toward God's people.

IV. We Stand In The Same Place.

- A. We have heard the truth.
1. God sent it to us.
 2. We have the same gifts.
- B. We can bear fruit.
1. We can grow.
 2. We can show holy love.

