

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE COLOSSIANS

LESSON 2: CHAPTER 1, VERSES 5-17

25 OCTOBER, 2013

Verse 5: Paul said believers heard about faith, love, and hope BEFORE when they heard the _____.

- Christ died for me because He _____ me.
- I should have died in my sins, but Jesus died for me. Now I have _____.
- By _____, I know that to be true.
- Jesus Died, but he rose from the dead. That gives me _____ of resurrection.

Verse 6: The Gospel has been preached in _____.

The Gospel has been preached to _____ (vs. 23).

The Apostle Paul, on three missionary journeys, was able to bring the gospel to many nations, but he wasn't the only one preaching the gospel.

- There were 120 believers present in the upper room on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:15).
 - They would also preach the Gospel in all the world to every creature (Mark. 16:15).
 - Colossians 1:6 and 1:23 reports the success of that effort.
- In Acts 2:5 there were thousands of Jews from “**every nation under heaven**” who heard the gospel in their own tongue.
 - Notice God’s preparation. He had the Jews scattered long before Jesus died, but they were required to return to Jerusalem every year.
 - They came, they heard the gospel, and then they returned home, taking the gospel back to every nation.
- In Acts 8:1, there were at least 5,000 believers living in Jerusalem (Acts 4:4). Because of persecution they were “scattered abroad” and “**went every where preaching the word.**”

Everywhere the gospel is preached, it “**bringeth forth fruit.**”

“**Since the day ye heard of it.**” You can get saved the first time you hear the gospel.

“**And knew the grace of God in truth.**” It is by God’s grace that you heard the gospel and believed it.

Verses 7-8: Epaphras ministered to the saints at Colosse and brought a good report to Paul concerning them. Verse 8 is the only reference in Colossians to the Holy Spirit. Christ is the theme of this letter.

Verses 9-17: Paul’s prayer for these saints includes seven things:

1 Perception (vs. 9) 2 A life pleasing to God (vs. 10). 3 Fruitful service (vs. 10). 4 Growth of knowledge (vs. 10). 5 Spiritual strength / power from God (vs. 11). 6 Patience (vs. 11). 7 Longsuffering with joyfulness (vs. 11).

Verse 9: “**For this cause.**” Because Epaphras told Paul of their love for the Lord and for one another, Paul desires and prays that these saints might know God’s will.

Verse 10: Paul prays that they “**might walk worthy of the Lord.**” To walk implies action. A Christian will be doing something for the Lord. “Worthy,” doesn’t mean God saved me or keeps me because I have any worth. But my walk as a Christian can be “**unto all pleasing.**” I can please God and make Him glad that He saved me. (See Philippians 1:27, Ephesians 4:1, Prov. 11:20).

“Being fruitful in every good work.” Paul prays that they bear fruit in every area of the Christian life; not just certain parts. Nothing should be neglected.

“And increasing in the knowledge of God.” No matter your age; no matter how many times you’ve read the Bible, you can still learn something more.

Verse 11: **“Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power.”** I’m going to need HIS strength; HIS power to accomplish or overcome things in this world.

“Unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” That’s why I need His strength and power; so I can be patient and keep a smile on my face while I’m suffering or facing difficulties.

Verse 12: We give thanks unto the Father because He **“hath made us meet (suitable) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.”** Just as there was not a help meet (suited) for Adam until God created Eve, we were not suitable to partake of the inheritance of the saints until, by faith, we received Christ and God changed us. God had to make us meet! If you love darkness, you’re not meet for the light (John 3:19, 8:12).

Verse 13: **“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness.”** God delivered us from Satan and everything associated with darkness (Eph. 6:12). We get out of the bad.

“And hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” We get into the good; the spiritual kingdom of God. This has already taken place. Jesus told Paul He would do this very thing (Acts 26:18). Paul said it was fulfilled (past tense delivered/ translated) in Colossians.

Verse 14: We HAVE (present tense) redemption in God’s “dear Son.” No need to work for it. How were you redeemed? **“Through His blood.”** That’s the purchase price (1 Peter 1:18-19). Without it, there is no redemption. Note: modern bibles (NIV, NAS, etc.) remove the blood from this verse. **“Even the forgiveness of sins.”** Past, present, and future sins have been paid for in full!

Verse 15: Jesus Christ is **“the image of the invisible God.”** Jesus is the only member of the Godhead that can be visibly seen (1 Tim. 1:17, Heb. 1:3, 11:27, Jn 1:18, 14:7-8). Jesus is the visible manifestation and appearance of the Godhead. He was “from the beginning,” but he was seen and handled (1 Jn. 1:1).

“The firstborn of every creature.” This does not say that Christ was a created being. The next verse says **“For by him were all things created.”** First born does not mean that no one was born before Him. Jesus was not the first man to be born into this world. He is also “firstborn from the dead” (vs. 18). There were people raised from the dead before Jesus in the Old and New Testaments.

“Firstborn” is not a statement regarding chronology. It is a statement regarding superiority (in rank, order, authority, dominion; with blessing and inheritance). (Gen. 41:51-52 with Jer. 31:9, Deut 21:15-17, Exod. 4:22, Psalm 89:25-27). Jesus Christ is preeminent (superior in position) above all God’s creation.

Verse 16: **“For by him were all things created.”** Whether visible or invisible, He made it. This refutes the theory of evolution. All things were created by Him and for Him. For Him; for His pleasure (Rev. 4:11). This refutes Calvinism. God created us for his pleasure. God has no pleasure at all that the wicked should die (Ezekiel 18:23, 33:11). Calvinism teaches that God created some men to die and go to hell. Wrong!

Verse 17: **“And he is before all things (in time, rank, power, importance, etc) and BY him all things consist.”** (Heb. 11:3). Jesus Christ holds all of creation together by the word of His power.