

CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

Studies in the Book of Colossians

Date: April 18, 2010

Text: Col. 1:1-14

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PAUL'S BEGINNING PRINCIPLES

INTRODUCTION We must remember that Paul had never met the believers of Colossae or visited there. However, because they were his brothers and sisters in the Lord, there was a common bond. So Paul begins his letter to them, not as a rebuke, but as a defense of the faith they should hold on to. In these first fourteen verses, Paul speaks of his apostolic love for them, and his goal to see their progress in the faith. This progress unfortunately can be hampered seriously by allowing false teaching to have freedom to enter the hearts of such new believers. So Paul begins by commenting on their strengths, and his commitment to pray much for them and teach them how to sport error amidst truth. Thus we see...

I. Paul's Passion for the Colossians – (1:1-8)

- A) For People – *“We see his passion for their progress”*
- B) For Preachers – *“We see his passion for commitment ”*

II. Paul's Perspective for the Colossians – (1:9-14)

- A) His Petition – *“That God would enlighten and equip the saints”*
- B) His Praise – *“For the Colossian believers' salvation”*

CONCLUSION: Paul has not yet addressed the errors that Epaphras has shared with him that were infecting the minds of the Colossian believers. So before Paul could address these things, he felt it necessary to allow them to see that his heart and purpose in writing was not to scold them, nor rebuke them. Rather to help them personally see the need to grow into mature Christians, personally able to spot error, and effectively sort it out when any false preaching is encountered. This takes great discernment and wisdom of the faith to do this; and, it was Paul's desire that the Colossian believers would gain this ability and prosper. How's your faith? Is it filled with all truth, or an admixture of truth and some false concepts and teachings -- how can you know? Well the next study will give you a handle to measure your faith by.

TEXT FOR MESSAGE

The New International Version

Col 1:1-14 (NIV) "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 2 To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father. 3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, 4 because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints-- 5 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.

6 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. 7 You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, 8 and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

9 For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, 11 being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins."