

Conclusion

The Gospel is glorious. At the close of this segment of the epistle, Paul tells what Epaphras bore to him concerning the ultimate movement of the Spirit at Colosse--the love of the Colossians in the Spirit! The sphere of their love was the Holy Spirit. God had worked and the Colossians were testimonies of it all. Glory to His Name.

Notes:

BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

"The Truth of the Gospel" Colossians 1:5-8

Introduction

1. The basic message of the Bible is the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is the core theme of the entire Book. Blessed be His Holy Name.

2. To enter into an understanding of the Gospel is indeed a most wonderful experience. To help gain that is the purpose of this message. It was the intent of Paul to share this with the Colossians and under inspiration of the Spirit it has been preserved for us until this hour.

3. Mark carefully from the text the four statements made about the Gospel:

1. IT'S TRUTH v. 5.

Three big words stand out in the text which should be noted:

- a. Word. It is important to be reminded that we have not some cunning ideas of men, but a WORD from God. In a specific sense, a written revelation is involved!
- b. Truth. The text does not read: "The Gospel of truth," but "the truth of the Gospel." In this sense, therefore, we have noted the full gamut of truth which is encompassed in the Gospel--His deity, virgin birth, etc.
- c. Gospel. What a sweet word this is. Good news in the world of blackness and darkness. All the truth of this wonderful Gospel had been opened unto the Colossians

by Epaphras.

2. ITS FRUIT. v. 6.

The AV is not too clear on this verse, but the original marks out three important teachings:

- a. Reaching. Even in those days, the Gospel was reaching to the then known world. This is not to say that some people are not unreached, but it is to say that the Gospel has been and is reaching out unto all the world. The Gospel is a traveling one. It is ever widening in its course. It has world-wide interest.
- b. Fructifying. Here is a credential of the Gospel that is wonderful. When the Gospel is received and known, it bears fruit. The Gospel lifts men from lives of nothingness unto lives of glorious spiritual fruitage. Blessed be His Name. There must be fruit in one's life in order to commend the Gospel of our Lord!
- c. Increasing. One cluster of fruit is not alone seen in the life of a believer, but a blessed variety which constantly increases. You know and so does God whether there is real increase of the Gospel in the life. Paul traces the beginnings of the increase to the day the Colossians heard the Gospel. This is just the way it should be--a process and progression from the day of birth right on to Glory!

3. ITS MESSAGE. v. 6.

Succinctly, the message of the Gospel is the GRACE of God. Two verbs, however, summarize the important truths here:

- a. Heard. Faith coming by HEARING. This is something which is critical. Admittedly

many come to the Lord by strange means. How wonderful it is when hearts turn after they have heard the truth in all its simplicity.

- b. Know. When the message of grace is heard, it then can be known. This verb is an augmented verb and speaks of full knowledge. It is an oblique strike at the Gnostics who denied full knowledge for simple believers on Christ. The added thought of "in truth" suggests genuineness and reality.

4. ITS SERVANT.

God had His means to bring the Gospel to the Colossians. He had His man to bring the message to you too. May it have been that God's man was like unto Epaphras who is mentioned here. Note what is said of him:--

- a. Fellow-servant. This is how Paul considered those with whom he labored. Never do you read of sharp criticisms of his fellow workers from Paul. True, he took Peter to task, but there was no bitterness of spirit. It is tragic to see evil spirits rise in so many as they find disagreement with a brother over some matter. Not so with Paul and Epaphras.
- b. Faithful minister. The word 'minister' is in the original the one for "deacon." The phrase "for you" really should be "on my behalf." Epaphras was Paul's substitute in Colosse. What a thought of commendation from the great servant of God. His sub was faithful. The message is indeed important but the man God charges to bear the truth is also. Blessed be God for such a one as Epaphras!