



LET'S GET EXCITED ABOUT JESUS CHRIST!

Wiersbe, Warren W. 1996. The Bible Exposition
Commentary. Vol. 2. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

COLOSSIANS 1:1 – 4 (NKJV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;



COLOSSIANS 1:5b – 7 (NKJV)

⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

⁶ which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

⁷ as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,



They Heard the Gospel (Col. 1:5b – 7)

- The Good News of the Gospel was not native to their city. It had to be brought to them; and in their case, Epaphras was the messenger.
- He was a citizen of Colossae (Col. 4:12 – 13), but he had come in contact with Paul and converted to Jesus Christ. This was probably during Paul's great three-year ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:10).
- Once Epaphras had been saved, he shared this thrilling news with his relatives and friends back home. Perhaps it would have been exciting for Epaphras to stay with Paul in Ephesus, where so many wonderful things were taking place. But his first responsibility was taking the Gospel to his home city (see Mark 5:19).



The “GOSPEL”

- The Gospel is the Good News that Jesus Christ has solved the problem of sin through His death, burial, and resurrection.
- The word Gospel means "Good News." Unfortunately, some people witness as though the Gospel is the bad news of condemnation.
- In our witnessing, we should remember to emphasize the good news of the Gospel (see 1 Cor. 15:1 – 8). In his Letter to the Colossian's section, Paul reviews the characteristics of this exciting Gospel message.



The CENTER Of The Gospel Is Jesus Christ!

- The theme of this epistle is the preeminence of Jesus Christ, and He is undoubtedly preeminent in the Gospel.
- The false teachers who had invaded the fellowship in Colossae were trying to remove Jesus Christ from His place of preeminence, but to do this was to destroy the Gospel.
- It is Christ who died for us and who arose again.



The Gospel message
does not center on a philosophy,
doctrine, or religious system. It
centers in Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.



The Gospel is “TRUTH” (v. 5).

- This means that it came from God and can be trusted.

JOHN 17:17 (NKJV)

Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

- There are many messages and ideas that can contain truth, but only God's Word can be called truth.



The Gospel is the "TRUTH" (v. 5).

Satan is the liar; to believe his lies is to be led astray into death.

JOHN 8:44 (NKJV)

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.



Jesus is the “TRUTH” (v. 5).

Jesus is the Truth; when we trust Him, we experience life. Men have tried to destroy God's truth, but they have failed.

JOHN 14:6 (NKJV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”



The Gospel is the "Word of truth" (v. 5).

- The Word of truth still stands!
- Everybody has faith in something. But faith is only as good as the object in which a person puts his trust.
- The true Christian believer has faith in Jesus Christ, and that faith is based on the Word of truth. Any other kind of faith is but superstition—it cannot save.



The Gospel is the message of God's grace (v. 6b).

COLOSSIANS 1:6 (NKJV)

which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;



Grace And Mercy

Two words in the Christian vocabulary are often confused: grace and mercy.

- God, in His grace, **GIVES** me what I **DO NOT** deserve.
- Yet God, in His mercy, **DOES NOT GIVE** me what I **DO DESERVE**.
- Grace is God's favor shown to undeserving sinners.



Grace Brings Salvation

The reason the Gospel is good news is because of grace: God is willing and able to save ALL who will trust Jesus Christ.

TITUS 2:11 (NKJV)

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,



It Is For The Whole World (V. 6).

- Paul said that the Gospel was bearing fruit in all the world. The Word of God is the only seed that can be planted anywhere in the world and bear fruit.
- The Gospel can be preached "to every creature which is under heaven" (Col. 1:23).
- Paul's emphasis was on "every man" (Col. 1:28). False teachers do not take their message to all the world. They go where the Gospel has already gone and try to lead believers astray. They have no good news for lost sinners!



If people are to be saved, they must hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. AND if they are to hear, we who are saved must carry the message.

Are you doing your part?



They Believed in Jesus Christ (Col. 1:4)

COLOSSIANS 1:4 (NKJV)

since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

It is possible to hear and not believe, even though the Word of God can generate faith in those who hear.



ROMANS 10:17 – 21 (NKJV)

¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

¹⁸ But I say, have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.”

¹⁹ But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: “I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.”

²⁰ But Isaiah is very bold and says: “I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”

²¹ But to Israel he says: “All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.”



Hear, Believe And Receive

Millions of people have heard the Good News of salvation yet have not believed. But those who believe in Jesus Christ receive from God the gift of eternal life (John 3:14–18).



JOHN 3:14 – 18 (NKJV)

¹⁴ And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.



A Commitment To Jesus Christ

Saving faith involves the mind, the emotions, and the will:

- With the mind, we understand the truth of the Gospel, and with the heart, we feel conviction and the need to be saved.
- But it is only when we exercise the will and commit ourselves to Christ that the process is complete.

Faith is not mental assent to a body of doctrines, no matter how true those doctrines may be. Faith is not an emotional concern. Faith is a commitment to Jesus Christ.



Saving Faith Is Grounded In The Gospel

COLOSSIANS 1:23 (NKJV)

if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

God's Word gives us assurance. As we grow in the Lord, our faith becomes steadfast (Col. 2:5) and established (Col. 2:7).



Undermining The Faith

- The false teachers who had come to Colossae tried to undermine the saints' faith in Christ and the Word. This same kind of undermining goes on today.
- Any religious teaching that dethrones Jesus Christ or makes salvation other than an experience of God's grace through faith is either confused or anti-Christian and born of Satan.



You Can't Keep Silent!

- One final thought: The experience of the believers in Colossae was so wonderful that people talked about it! Paul heard about it from Epaphras; the false teachers heard about it and decided to visit the Colossian assembly to see the remarkable change for themselves.
- You cannot keep silent once you have experienced salvation in Jesus Christ.



Ask Yourself...

- Is your Christian life the kind that encourages others and makes it easy for them to witness?
- Is your church fellowship so exciting that even the unsaved are taking notice?

