

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 2

Discipleship Hour, 7/24/2020

Truth Declared (1:1-2)

Study will proceed by looking at the Book of Colossians from the foundation of truth:

1. **Truth Declared 1:1-14 (tonight, we begin this section)**
2. **Truth Defined 1:15-2:8**
3. **Truth Defended 2:9-3:4**
4. **Truth Desired 3:5-4:1**
5. **Truth Displayed 4:2-18**

Colossians 1:1-14 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, 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. We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; 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, 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; as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing *Him*, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

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

A claim to be speaking for Christ not by merit, but by the will of God: this will is the source of his position in grace and the secret of his success in service. (Acts 18:21; Romans 1:10, 15:32; 1 Corinthians 1:1, 4:19, 16:7)

Romans 1:10 making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.

1 Corinthians 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,

In contrast to Galatians where Paul defends his apostleship (which was under attack), here he is defending the sovereignty of Christ and therefore boldly asserts himself as a representative of the Christ.

Note, though Paul is exalted in apostolic office, yet Timothy (a Gentile) is his brother as are all the faithful at Colosse (v.2 "our Father).

Colossians 1:2 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.

"To the saints = hagioi" This word is misapplied in the world and in the church. This is not meaning the ascetics or the monastics, but those who by reason of faith have entered into relationship with God. The term designates standing rather than state, legal rather than vital position.

Christians are declared holy "in Christ." God calls things that be not as though they were. This indicates:

- we are to make actual what we are in potentiality.
- the term "saints" is simply another name for believers.

And believers are "faithful brethren." There is deep theology in this phrase. You are a saint because you are in God's kingdom. You are brethren because you are in God's family.

No one can claim to be in God's kingdom and still reject his family. Jesus is the first born amongst many brethren and those brethren are members one of another.

“In Christ at Colosse”: These 2 Greek prepositions (“en”) show that as Colosse is a location so is Christ. The believer has believed right into Christ so that if we are united with him in his death, we shall also share in His life.

But also notice, every believer has two homes simultaneously – being “in” Christ is your being. Being “at” Toms River is your domicile.

We have a double environment and therefore a dual responsibility. We are responsive to both governments, obedient to both governments, but we are at Toms River in Christ Who is our life and highest calling.

The difficulty for many is not in meeting the demands of both, but in meeting the appeal of both. We frequently find those who feel they must compromise position in one to maintain position in the other – this is only true for one who sees the two citizenships as being equal.

When you truly recognize that you are in the world but not of the world you come to the consequential belief that your supply is not in the world’s resources but in heaven’s resources – that makes you as limited as heaven.

Comment: what you speak of most = abundance of heart = issues of life (boundaries).

The devil would have you think how hard it is for the Christian to fight the world. The truth is – how fortunate it is for the world that you are here. (Salt of the earth - covenant)

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Colossians 1:2b ...Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace: Gk. (charis)
Peace Heb. (shalom)

Grace is always first – unmerited favor. Grace leads to peace.

Colossians 3:13-15 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.

From God our Father – God is not remote, abstract, unapproachable. Christ makes the invisible God visible.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Further, he makes the invisible God intelligible.

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

He is not just God – but Father.

He is not just Father but “Our Father” – we are commonly united by the faith and peace which have come to us by grace issuing from Father in the Christ.

This (vv. 1-2 with Grace and Peace) is Paul's greeting always. In vv. 3-8 we will see Paul's praise and in vv. 9-14, Paul's prayer.