

No more Chains Pt 2

Colossians 1:9-14

- Last week we talked how the book of Colossians was all about helping the people understand exactly Who Jesus is to the church, and to correct any misunderstandings, incorrect teachings, or just plain outright lies concerning Him. So, in Chapter one Paul is going to discuss the truth about Christ, in chapter two he'll expose the truth about cults and false teaching, and in chapters three and four the truth about the Christian and our roles within the plan of salvation.

V9-14

- Paul has told the church that since he and his companions first heard of the church in “Colosse” that they haven’t stopped praying for them even though Paul was not the one who founded the church and neither had he ever been to visit the church, and yet they held a special place within his heart and he is explaining that to us. One of the reasons he was so entwined with them had to do with how he felt about the person who history believes founded the church a man named “Epaphras”. A man who scripture says was **dependable, faithful, and a spreader of truth**.
- He told Paul that this church had a genuine faith in Christ, a love for all the saints, and a hope that was rooted and nurtured in the heavenlies > **1Cor 13:13**- Paul had already written first and second Corinthians so when he heard that about this church you know his heart was overjoyed. Which is why he said in **V5-7** that their thinking and belief has its foundation in the Word of truth, brought to them by a man of truth and integrity, for Paul knowing the character of “Epaphras” knew that this church had been well prepared to face the obstacles before them?
- **V9-12** Paul shares what he prayed for the believers in “Colosse” and it’s an interesting list, as **1st** he prays for **spiritual insight or understanding V9**- to know God and what He requires of us is our first responsibility, as so many are out doing what they think is best for them and then u-haul the Lord behind it, Paul says we should be intentional in what we do so that we can gain a knowledge of His will that will produce a spiritual understanding to apply it to our lives!
- **2nd** he prays that they will have a **worthy walk V10**- Paul wanted them to live according to the same knowledge that they received, Paul expected that Spiritual knowledge and understanding would produce biblical action. Which is why in **V6** he mentions that “**since they heard the truth they’ve been fruitful as they increased in the knowledge of God**”, so pleasing God results in a worthy walk. Many of us want to hide behind the excuse of “**I didn’t know**” but that’s not entirely true, if we didn’t know something it’s not because God had hidden that knowledge, it’s mostly that we really didn’t want to hear it, and when we did we ignored it.

- **3rd He prays for abundant power V11-** as we attempt to walk worthy of the Lord we can be confident in knowing that His strength is there to help us meet all of life's challenges, whether that means we need to endure and overcome problems with circumstances or display patience and longsuffering with people, whatever the case God will provide whatever is needed so that we can meet the difficulties with spiritual wisdom and come out of it expressing biblical joy.
- **4th he asks the Lord to give them a thankful spirit V12-** he wanted them to always remember that in whatever situation or trying circumstance that it was a blessing and a pleasure to be included in the redemption plan of God. So never believe the lie that something happened by chance, luck, or the cosmos, even that it was a slip up on God's part, He is on top of everything and in control and nothing gets by Him, so go to Him about everything about you, and be thankful that you and I have been given that choice to approach Him at any given time amen!
- **V13-14** Paul is sure to tell the church that one of the major reasons for this thankfulness along with being a part of God's plan is that we find ourselves on the right side of it, being delivered from the power of darkness, and brought into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. Before we had no power to free ourselves, we were unbeknown to us slaves of his to do his bidding, which is why we lived the way we did, thought the way we did, justified things the way we did, for Satan's power is **skilled in concealment**, it **lulls you to sleep**, it **breeds a fascination with sin**, and it will **embolden you** to think that what **you like** and **do**, there is **nothing wrong** with it.
- **"Conveyed"** is interesting, in the ancient world when one empire conquered another, the custom was to take the population of the defeated nation and transfer it completely to the conqueror's land. We saw this when Babylon conquered Israel and transported its people to their land and made them a part of their nation, for it says that everything you have and everything you are now belongs to us, that is the idea here. Before everything you were, and everything you had was used for the enemy, now everything you are, and everything you have, it now belongs to the Lord, as He has deported us into His nation having conquered darkness.
- So now we've been **"redeemed"** the word means to release a prisoner by payment of ransom, Jesus has paid the cost to set you and I free from Satan's grip, and that cost was the death of the cross, which has allowed us to be forgiven of our sins > past, present, future, many still have a hard time with this, still mentioning past deeds as if they still have a hold on them, that doesn't mean there are no consequences for past actions, you still may have to deal with that, but the forgiveness of all sins, this should bring about relief as the burden of guilt should be lifted.