

Colossians: The Solid Rock (1:1-8)

1. Introduction to the Book of Colossians (vs.1-2)

A. Author and Setting: The Apostle Paul, from prison in Rome

B. The City and Church of Colossae: Colossae was in Roman province of Asia, now Turkey; a once great city, now in decline, a small city overshadowed by prosperous neighboring cities

*Church started by Epaphras during Paul's 3yr time in Ephesus, on his 3rd missionary journey

C. The Colossian Heresy: Paul writes to warn the Church of a growing heresy containing elements of paganism and Judaism – false doctrines containing elements of Greek philosophy and Judaistic legalism

D. The Theme of Colossians – Christ, the Solid Rock – “Christ is all and in all” *3:11

***Paul starts with the theology and doctrine of who Christ is(chp1,2); this dictates how we live (3,4)

1. Christ the _____ foundation (2:6-7)

2. Christ the _____ God (1:15-17,19; 2:9)

3. Christ our _____ and Redeemer (1:13-14)

4. Christ the head of the _____ (1:18)

5. Christ _____ over all things (1:19)

6. Christ the _____ of the gospel (1:27;2:2)

7. Christ the _____ of all wisdom and knowledge (2:3,8)

8. Christ _____ over all Rule and Authority (2:10)

2. We Thank God for You! (vs.3-4)

A. Paul thanks God for their _____

1. Gk. word for faith; to be persuaded that something is true and to **trust** in it

2. Saving faith involves turning *from* sin, *to* God, *with intent* to serve and obey Him

*a redirection of the human will to forsake unrighteousness; surrender to and pursue Christ

3. The Colossians were demonstrating this in their lives, as the Thessalonians *1Thess1:9-10

B. Paul thanks God for their _____ for the saints

*Their saving faith was demonstrated in their love for the Church *Col3:12-14; 1Jn3:10; 4:7-8

C. I thank God for _____!

*I see many of you demonstrating true, saving faith, trusting in Christ!

3. The Gospel of Truth (vs.5-8) *Why are these things happening? Why the growth in Christ? The love/unity?

A. The Gospel is the _____ of God for Salvation (vs.5; Rom1:16) *remember Col1:27!!!

*Salvation is Christ in you – He will change us from the inside out!

B. The Gospel brings _____ even in tribulation (vs.5) *Rom5:1-5; Jude24-25

C. The Gospel will constantly bear eternal _____ in and through our lives (vs.6) *Jn15:8-10,16

*Love God and obey Him, we love others (Col1:8); we love righteousness; fruit of Spirit...

D. The Gospel will _____ in us, to overflow from us and spread to all the world (vs.6) *Prov11:30

*Ex. Matt13:31-33; see Acts1:8...

Turn your eyes on Jesus! Look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim...