

Colossians 1 – 27 November 2022

“The Very Image Of God In You”

Introduction

Read Vs 1-2

1. ‘Saints & faithful brethren’ – not 2 different groups, but 1 group that is both holy & trustworthy
2. He takes his title of apostle here b/c he’ll need to address them as a teacher & leader
 - a. This letter heavily addresses relativism and religious mixing

*1 of 4 Prison letters written late in Paul’s life circa 61AD (w/ Ephesians, Philippians, & Philemon)

*Though Eph & Col written from same time/place; *Eph focuses on the church* but *Col focuses on God*

*Theme: Godhood, centrality, & sufficiency of Jesus

*How can we know if we’re becoming like Jesus?

***Today, we’ll ask 4 questions to know if the very image of God is living within us**

1st Question: Do we pray for the provision of Jesus (Vs 3-14)

Read Vs 3-5

1. Do you find it hard to pray long or often?
 - a. When you have active ministry, not hard
2. He's grateful to hear of their *faith, hope & love*
 - a. I Cor 13:13– Greatest is love b/c it's forever
3. Love definition of hope here: 'as a reward that is currently stored in the treasure bank of heaven'

Read Vs 6

1. Paul also opens I Thes 1:3 w/ faith, hope & love
2. They are actively doing these things
3. They're bringing forth fruit and results

Read Vs 7-8

1. It seems that Epaphras is the one that brought the gospel to Colossae
2. Epaphras came & told Paul of the Colossians state; this is why Paul is writing to them

Read Vs 9

1. “Filled w/ the *knowledge* of His will’
 - a. Not ‘what should I eat for lunch’, but ‘should my marriage be for life’
 - b. Don’t get bogged w/ the small things
2. Knowledge isn’t the great fruit of the Christian life! But without it we can bear none!
3. We can’t love, have faith or hope without it
 - a. How do we love? What to put our faith in?
What to hope for?

Read Vs 10

1. And this knowledge is so we know how to *live appropriately & fruitfully* before the Lord

Read Vs 11

1. The prayer is that their knowledge & good works will give *strength to endure*
2. He asked for God to empower them to endure w/ great combination of patience & joy (need both)

Read Vs 12

1. It's God's work in us, He has made us...
 - a. ...partakers of the rewards of eternity
 - b. ...sons & daughters

Read Vs 13

1. We *were* partakers of this dark world
2. Now ***Satan's power over us is canceled*** & we've become citizens of Jesus's kingdom of light

Read Vs 14

1. We have been rid of the power of the darkness of this world by Jesus' shed blood on the cross
2. The cross forgives our sin, allowing us to be removed from this world's control
3. Now we're free to live as citizens of God's kingdom

2nd Question: Do we believe in the preeminence of the person of Jesus (Vs 15-19)

Read Vs 15

1. Jesus is the exact representation (icon) of God
2. ‘firstborn’ is *prototokos* (brought to the forefront), not the common word (to be born) *gennao*
 - a. Read Rom 8:29 – Jesus is the 1st to be resurrected from the dead to never die again
 - b. Rev 1:5 – Jesus is 1st begotten of the dead

Read Vs 16

1. Who we were talking about in vs 15 is Jesus, so that’s who created all things
 - a. Gen 1:1 (not dual; plural) also John 1:1, 14
2. Everything was created from Jesus & for Jesus

Read Vs 17-18

1. Jesus is at the head of the line in superiority
2. “All things consist” – There’s a day coming that He’ll let all material things go (II Pet 3:10-13)
3. He’s the head of the eternal church b/c He created the way thru death for us all

Read Vs 19

1. *Fulness* is plethora or completeness
2. The completeness of God is at home in Jesus

3rd Question: Do we have the proof of the purification of Jesus (Vs 20-23)

Read Vs 20

1. *Reconcile*: to bring back former state of harmony
 - a. Adam was created to be in harmony w/ God
 - b. OT is God's plan to reconcile us to Himself & NT is how He did it
2. Notice He reconciled "all things"
 - a. Creation is longing to be fixed (Rom 8:22)
 - b. Luk 19:39-40 – Even rocks would cry out
 - c. Read Matt 13:44 – All bought to gain you!

Read Vs 21-22

1. He did all this to save his enemies...us
2. He has made us, His enemies, clean removing ALL our sin and guilt (Read Jud 24)
3. When Satan looks at us now, he has nothing that he can throw up in our face to make us guilty when we stand at the throne of God the Father

Read Vs 23

1. Don't let there be a divide between speaking words of faith in Christ & an actual life showing it
 - a. Witnessed to a guy named Andrew at McDs: Had nothing to say of his faith, but when I explained Jesus, he just wanted to agree with all I said
2. The continuance of our faith is the proof of the reality of our faith
 - a. Does your life show you're at peace w/ God, death and your eternal future state?

4th Question: Do we preach the power of Jesus (Vs 24-29)

Read Vs 24

1. Read John 15:18-20 – Since the world hates Jesus, it will hate us too
2. The legacy of Jesus lives on in & thru us; this is “that which is behind of the afflictions Christ”
3. Notice we endure the ridicule of the world for the benefit of the church – it’s worth it!

Read Vs 25-26

1. Who suffers for Christ and how much?
 - a. This is God’s choosing within His economy
2. Service and/or suffering for Christ has a goal; to reveal God’s salvation to the whole world

Read Vs 27

1. God wants the whole world to know that He wants to do the work for us!
 - a. Read Phil 2:13

- b. No world religion offers that their god will literally empower them to do the work
 - c. No world religion offers constant guidance, love and help from their god
2. Re-read vs 13 – We’ve not just been brought out from under the power of darkness, into God’s kingdom, but He’s given us the power to live it!

Read Vs 28-29

1. We evangelize & teach everyone
 - a. Evangelism isn’t like selling things or a duty
 - b. Evangelism looks like “warning” people
 - c. We’re to be God’s watchman
 - i. Turn to Eze 33:1-6
2. So there’s evangelism but also teaching & growing into a complete or mature person
3. This is done by “His mighty working within me”

Conclusion

So Paul sets the stage to talk about some heresies that are being floated about, by focusing on the centrality of Jesus Christ & being made into His image.

Is He working in your life?

1. **Are we praying for the provision of Jesus?**
 - a. We need knowledge & endurance of Spirit
2. **Do we believe in the preeminence of the person of Jesus?**
 - a. Creator Jesus became the 1stborn from dead
3. **Do you show proof of the purification of Jesus?**
 - a. Walking in faith is proof of the reality of it
4. **Do we preach the power of Jesus?**
 - a. If you're a Christian, world's gonna hate you, so you might as well go public & preach it

Is Jesus's image in us?

Turn Matt 22:17-21 – What do I render to God?
Who's image is on you?

Read Rom 8:29, then II Cor 3:18 – Let God do His perfect work in your life today