

A. SERMON SLIDES

Slide 1: Title

Introduction to Colossians: Just Jesus

Colossians 1:1-8

Slide 2:

Colossians 1:1-8 (ESV)

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

To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.

Slide 3:

Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

Slide 4:

Ephesians: The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ in His church

Colossians: The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ in His world...over all of life.

Slide 5:

Supremacy = Christ reigns as authoritative King over every aspect of creation

Slide 6:

Sufficiency = Christ's presence is enough to complete our salvation and for earthly human flourishing

Slide 7:

Colossians 2:9-10 (ESV)

"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him..."

Slide 8:

Authorship of Colossians:

The Apostle Paul

Slide 9:

Context of Colossians:

Church History

School of Tyrannus

Slide 10:

Problem in Colossae:

- 1) Rationalism
- 2) Legalism
- 3) Asceticism
- 4) Mysticism

Slide 11:

The Authority of Colossians:

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God..."

B. GROUP DISCUSSION

1) Read Colossians 1:1-8. What do you see in this short introduction that stands out to you?

2) Paul calls the Gospel the "Word of Truth." What do you think that means? What does it mean to have the Gospel "come to you?"

3) Sometimes we think of the Gospel as the way into the kingdom. But Paul says that it also is something that increases and continues to bear fruit. In what way is the Gospel also the way to travel once inside the kingdom?

4) The church at Colossae were being tempted to use the Gospel to get inside the kingdom, but then to walk in other ways for growth. Can you think about these 4 areas of "heresy" and how they seep into the church today.

a) Rationalism: Trust in human wisdom, science or philosophy. The answers are within us.

b) Legalism: What else must we do to be saved? What rituals or practices or traditions must we observe and incorporate?

c) Asceticism: Having less is more holy. Distancing from the earth is more holy. To live painfully on earth is the way to grow.

d) Mysticism: Spiritual experience with the otherworldly is necessary. There are secrets we can unlock. We need to rise above our human flesh to higher levels of consciousness.

5) Does the Bible have authority over our lives? Do we more quickly go to human authors and speakers for wisdom? Internet? Science community? Experts? How can we live a balanced life of listening to the noise and wisdom of earth, but only placing our complete trust in God's Word.

6) Prayer and praise