

Intro (1:3-14)

1. Overestimating Allen

PIC # 1 - Road close-up (mine)

PIC # 2 - Road switch back

PIC # 3 - Aerial of Beartooth

PIC # 4 - Pass summit snow (mine)

(1) I do the same thing w/
my sin in relationship to
others.

(2) I want others to change,
without imposing the same
standard for myself,
thinking I do.

What this
does is create
a petulant
posture

2. Underestimating Jesus

(1) I over... allen; but under... Jesus

(2) Paul is writing to a young
church in a small town.

1. They don't get his podcast

2. They making some mistakes
(Gal. rebuke of a stubborn church)

(Posture) 3. Petulant → Patience = Prayer

I. Thank God In Their Progress (v 3-8)

1. From Where They Were (v 3-6)

(1) They were w/o faith (v 3-4)

1. v 3 - He always thanks God (not sometimes)

2. Thanks? Curse, blame, question

3. Spiritual Father, no matter how bad; you love your kids

4. v 4a - What can I be thankful for?
Thankful for their faith.

Eph. 2:8, 19 - For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God... So then you are no longer strangers and aliens [to God]...

1 Peter 2:11 - Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles [to the world] to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

5. v 4b - Thankful they're in church

(2) They were w/o hope (v 5)

Eph. 2:12 - remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

1. Without Jesus, without hope

1. Because faith → have hope

3. Hope in heaven = (1) restoration of all things made (2) completion of all things promised

Thankful
God is not
done!

(3) They were w/o Fruit (v6)

Eph. 5:11 - Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.

1. The Gospel always bears fruit (1) sometimes small (2) sometimes slow
2. "They're just not a fruit bearing Christian" - !?!?
* Not a money paying job
Diploma giving college
3. Thank God for spiritual fruit

2. By Whatever Means (v7-8)

(1) Whoever (Epaphras - v7, 4:12-13)

- Paul has no air of competition
1. Started the church; studied under Paul; messenger
 2. Sometimes people you have a hard time w/ or you want to see grow, need someone else
 3. Colossians from Epaphras
Epaphras from Paul
Paul from Jesus

1 Cor. 3:6-9 - I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

4. No one can take credit anyways... divine provision over human accomplishment

(2) Whenever (, 8)

1. Paul probably never been to Colossae.
2. School in Ephesus → Epaphras a product of
3. He never get to see first-hand the Fruit
4. Are you ok w/ that?
5. Pray thanks that in God's timing

3. Non-Christians?

(1) We can't thank God for their progress from where they were

1. Faith 2. Hope 3. Fruit

(2) " " " "
by whatever means

(3) Look for any progress towards

II. Ask God For Their Transgress (v9-11)

1. Your Expectations (v9-10)

(1) v9 - Paul/Timothy have not stopped praying

1. Focus on progress changes our expectations.

Some of you are like Britney

Ephesians 3:20 - Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...

(2) 3 Roles we Play

They need the Word more than your shame

1. Knowledge } Instruction
2. Understanding }
3. Wisdom → Model (Time & proximity)

(3) Why should I care? (v10)

1. Worthy walk - consistency
2. Pleasing Life - we want God to take pleasure in what He's made
Baseball Sun 10/19
3. Bearing Fruit - we are good citizens, neighbors, friends, husbands, wives, sisters, brothers, daughters, sons

2. Their limitations (vll)

(1) Nothing in Paul's language that sounds like:

1. Same ol' Colossae
2. They'll never change
3. Take too much energy

(2) There is no leadership lid in the Gospel, John Maxwell!

(3) Instead, power (according to His glorious might) for...

1. Endurance - impossible situations
(The same ol' things)
2. Patience - impossible people
(The same ol' people)

Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

III. Trust God With Their Process (v.12-14)

1. This process is a "we" not a "they"
"share, us, we" (v.12-14)

(1) Paul doesn't say them, they, or you. He lumps himself in w/ Colossae.

1. So later when he does say "you", they hear him the same way Gabrielle Montez heard Troy Bolton, "we're all in this together".

(2) **Share** = the Gospel facilitates a reward we all share in, but also a process we all share in...

1. Later in series we'll talk about your maturity

1 Timothy 1:15 - The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

(3) **Us/We** = they get to get their crap together before there is a "us/we".

1. Us/We means He is using you/they to do that very thing (in both of you)

2. This process is a "He" not a "me"

(1) "God... has qualified..."
"He has delivered"

1. God has qualified you in His sight by the merits of His Son.
2. Therefore, you have been delivered from eternal, conscious torment and into eternal, everlasting life.

(2) And if He can save someone like me, He can save someone like them.

1. And if He is still working in my life, then I have to assume He's still working in theirs.

(3) People are not changed by us... they are changed by Jesus.

1. And we should want & pray that everyone is

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Faith → 2. Both in presence & fullness

Conclusion

1. All about King Jesus

(1) In case you missed it, Paul keeps trying to get it back to Jesus.

(2) In the end:

1. Not about what you will do.
2. Not about what they are doing
3. It's what Jesus has done.

Gal. 5:13-15 - For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.

(3) A church that bites & devours is a church too focused on what each other is doing; too focused on themselves.

(4) We want to be a place that uses its freedom in Jesus to serve. But you have to focus on Jesus to do that.

2. Summary

(1) Thank God IN their progress

1. From where they were
2. By whatever means

(2) Ask God for their transgress

1. Transgress your expectations
2. Transgress their limitations

(3) Trust God with their process

1. Christianity is a team sport. - "we not they"
2. But it's also a one-man-show. "He not me"

Go & pray that prayer

(4) Jesus is King over our lives, He is King over our posture.

ALL HAIL KING JESUS