

## Sermon Notes from Pastor Cornelius Schelling 8-16-09 The Church at Colosse

The theme of the book of Colossians is, Jesus is the head of the Church.

Colossians 3:16 tells us the will of the father for the church.

In Colossians 2:8 Paul talks about a challenge in the church, they got into legalism.

The second challenge is found in verse 16. Paul talks about intellectualism.

**Colossians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus *our* brother, Paul means small.

Paul humbled himself, submitted himself to Jesus Christ and the leadership of the Holy Spirit; and in Romans and I Corinthians it tells us that Paul made himself a servant not only to the Godhead and the Bible says "he became all thing to all men so that he might win some."

This also tells us that just as Jesus is the head of the church that our leadership is to come from Jesus through the Holy Ghost so that we might do the works of Jesus.

The apostle Paul also tell that Timotheus was called the same way.

The word apostle= apostolos= A sent one.

1. Someone sending you.
2. It means you have a destiny, purpose in life.

I Corinthians 12:28 God hath set some in the church... helps...

In Romans 12:4-9 people have callings just like the apostle Paul someone has sent you and his name is Jesus therefore you have destiny and purpose.

**Colossians 1:2.** The book of Colossians was written while Paul was in prison and he addressed the book to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ at Colosse.

Notice the words Saints and Faithful brethren in Christ. The word brethren tells us that all men who are born again are called brethren. This also tells us the people who are not in Christ are not brethren.

Here we see two words saints and faithful. We have a lot of saints who are in Christ but they are not doing the work of the ministry.

What is the work of the ministry?

1. Be a good witness with your life. Some saints are not good witnesses, but they are still saints.

James 3:10 Out of the same mouth proceeded blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

We ought not be speaking good things about the church one minute and cursing the church the next minute.

Some saints only go to church when they feel like it or when its convenient for them or just on special days.

Then Paul makes mention of the faithful saints and they are the saints that are involved in the work of the ministry.

1. They are a good witness for Christ. They live right before Christ and the world.
2. They are faithful to the gifts and callings on their lives.
3. They are servants of the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and to the church, they're involved, their always on time, their always willing to help when ever called upon.

The book is addressed to the church at Colosse and then Paul says Grace be unto you, and peace, from the God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace is God's unmerited favor given unto you. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Paul is reminding them that grace came through Jesus and that they are his righteousness.

Peace John 14:27 God has given us peace in this world—freedom from all fear.

The apostle always connects Grace and Peace together because you cannot have one without the other.

2 Peter 1:2 Tells us that Grace and Peace can be multiplied to us through the knowledge of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Here in verse two Paul says from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul is reminding them that there is only one God even though there are many gods in the earth there is only one supreme God.

He is God who created the heavens and the earth. He is the one who formed man out of the dust of the earth and breathed the breath of life into him—whether you believe it or not is the only true God.

Now notice God our Father, when you receive Jesus as your personal Savior the God of all creation becomes your heavenly Father whereby we cry abba Father.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Remember what it says in 2 Timothy 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Even the Lord Jesus Christ respects God as God yet he also knows him as Father. When you know God the Father and Jesus you will have peace.

Colossians 1 Vs 3. We give thanks -- to be grateful, that is, to express gratitude (towards). All praise and adoration is to go to the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice praying always for you which means when the Lord reminds me I make supplications for you. The you here is in reference to the saints and the faithful saints.

Colossians 1 Vs 4. Tells us when Paul started to pray for them.

1. When he heard of their faith in Christ Jesus. (salvation)
2. When he heard of their love for all the saints. (action)\

Colossians 1 Vs 5. because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

Hope comes from heaven and it is here for us on earth and that hope is eternal life and the resurrection of the dead in Christ receiving our glorified bodies.

Paul said you have heard this before for faith cometh by hearing and hearing and what they heard was the word of truth of the gospel.

Did you ever hear a part of the gospel and you didn't know if you could believe that or not but as you kept hearing faith came to you and you said that's right and you believed the gospel.

Colossians 1 Vs 6. Which is come unto you, as it has also in all the world...

Paul said there was a time you were in the world and the gospel was preached to you and that gospel produced fruit in your life.

Notice Paul said the day you heard it and when you heard it you were born again. It also says that they knew the Grace of God in truth and verse seven tells us how they knew.

Colossians 1 Vs 7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

Learned means to understand and they came to understand because Epaphras taught them in the word at Colosse.

Paul called Epaphras a fellow servant -- co-slave--a co worker ministering the word of truth, called of God and he has become a servant to you. It says "A faithful minister of Christ on your behalf."

Epaphras heart was for the people at Colosse.

The word faithful means trustworthy, Epaphras was faithful to pray for the church at

Colosse, he was faithful to speak the word over the church, he was not only their to be a servant of God his Father and the Lord Jesus Christ but also to serve the people at Colosse and in Vs. 8 it says "who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit."

Their were 6 Blessings of the Colossians:

1. Had faith in Jesus Christ vs. 4. And if you have faith in Jesus Christ you are blessed.
2. Love for all the saints vs. 4 and if you have love for all the saints you are blessed.
3. Hope of eternal life vs. 5 (Tit 1:2) if you have this hope you are blessed.
4. Heard the truth of the gospel vs. 5 if you have heard the truth you are blessed.
5. Experienced fruit bearing vs. 6 if you have fruit in your life maturing in the thing of God your father you are blessed in Christ.
6. Knew the Grace of God in truth. If you know the truth the truth has set you free and you are blessed.

I was reading some foot notes in a Bible and it said that Phrygia was just a few miles from Laodicea and that both cities had disappeared so completely that only in recent times the sites have been found. It also stated that Eusebius states that Colosse perished in an earthquake a short time after the writing of the epistle.

We need to understand that under the Old Covenant or the Old Testament that God dealt with sin people an cities, towns and nations in a different way then he does under the New Testament or New Covenant.

In the Old Testament towns, villages, cities and even nations were completely destroyed and all the people were sometimes destroyed or made slaves.

But under the New Testament or New Covenant the Lord Jesus taught the disciples to let the wheat and the tares be together for he will some day separate all the wheat from the tares.

The sons of thunder were thinking Old Covenant but Jesus was bringing the New Covenant.

This is why we today don't see the things that took place in the Old Testament because of the Grace of God through his son Jesus Christ that is given to us and we should never use that as an excuse to be an unfaithful saints of God because their is a day of judgment coming.

Not all of the saints and faithful brethren at the church at Colosse were caught up in intellectualism or legalism and we don't have to be either if we will remember what God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ have given to us.

If we want to continue to walk in the blessings of God we will need to put away the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life and put them under the authority of the word and the Spirit leadership of the Holy Ghost.