



Edgemont Bible Church
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Colossians

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Intro: The Gospel

Acts 20:24 calls it the Gospel of the grace of God; Ro 1:9 calls it the Gospel of His son; 1 Co 9:12 calls it the Gospel of Christ; Ro 15:16 calls it the Gospel of God; 2 Co 4:4 calls it the Gospel of the glory of Christ; Eph 6:15 calls it the Gospel of Peace; Rev 14:6 calls it the eternal Gospel; Col 1:5 calls it the Word of truth or message of truth (Eph 1:13) from where we get the expression “the gospel truth” Because it is truth and the good news, we are brought to bear with several basic ways: **1st** - we should proclaim it - Mt 4:32; **2nd** - we should defend it - Phil 1:16; 1 Peter 3:15; **3rd** - we should strive together for its advancement - Phil 1:27; **4th** - pursue the fellowship of it - Acts 2:42; Phil 1:27; **5th** - we should be ready to suffer for it - 2 Tim 1:8; **6th** - live so that our lives do not hinder it - 1 Co 9:12; **7th** - never be ashamed of it - Ro 1:16; **8th** - realize that the Gospel carries with it divine empowerment - 1 Thess 1:5; Ro 1:16

I. The Gospel Truth

A. The Greeting - vs 1-2

1. Authority of Paul

- a. an apostle of Jesus Christ
- b. by the will of God,

2. His Associate - and Timothy our brother,

3. The Positional Truth about the recipients

- a. To the saints - hagios - refers to separation from sin and set apart to God
- b. and faithful brethren - pistos - Notes the source of the separation - saving faith.
- c. in Christ

4. His desire for them - Grace to you and peace

5. The source of what he desired - from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. The Gospel Truth is received by Faith - vs 3-4a

1. Because their faith was what God did in them, He is to be thanked - vs 3

- a. We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (always)
- b. (whenever we are) praying for you

1. Faith's Definition - pistis - means to be persuaded that something is true and trust in it

- a. more than intellectual assent - a dead faith - Jas 2:14-26
- b. pistis comes from the word peitho - to obey
 - i. Repentance - metanoia - meta-after and noeo-to understand - lit means a change of mind

- In the NT, it always speaks of a change of purpose – a redirection to the will
- involve 3 elements
 - turning to God
 - turning from evil
 - an intent to serve God

ii. Obedience is also encompassed with in saving faith

2. Faith's Object - in Christ Jesus - vs 4a

C. The Gospel Truth results in Love - vs 4b

1. one of the visible and strong fruits of real faith is “your love for all the saints”
2. Paul mentions it repeatedly in his epistles – Ro 5:5; 12:9; 13:10; 1 Co 13; 14:1; Gal 5:6,13; Eph 1:15; Col 1:8; 1 Thess 1:3; Phm 1:5;
3. John emphasizes in in 1 John – 2:9-11; 3:10,14-15; 4:20

D. Rests in Hope - vs 5

1. Faith and Hope are inseparable

- a. elpis- from a primary elpo (to anticipate, usually with pleasure); expectation (abstractly or concretely) or confidence:--faith, hope.
- b. apokeimai - to be reserved; figuratively, to await:--be appointed, (be) laid up. - 1Pe 1:4

2. One result of hope – willing to sacrifice the present on the altar of the future

- a. Moses – Heb 11:24-27
- b. Paul – 2 Tim 4:6-8

3. **euaggelion** - a good message, i.e. the gospel:--gospel.

E. Reaches the World - vs 6a

1. 6 which has come to you, **as it has also in all the world**,
2. Mt 24:14 - And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world
3. Jo 8:12 - "I am the light of the world.
4. Ro 1:8 - is spoken of throughout the whole world, 16 - for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek
5. Ro 10:18 - Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.
6. 1 Thess 1:8 - For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place.
7. Rev 7:9-10 - a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb,

F. Produces Fruit - vs 6b

1. Not just a stagnant system of ethics

- a. it is a living, moving, growing reality – Heb 4:12
- b. If brings forth fruit – Mt 13:3-8; Mr 4:8

c. divine energy causes it to spread like a mustard seed – Mt 13:31-32

d. it brings spiritual growth – 1 Pet 2:2; Php 1:11

2. The gospel brings forth fruit in two ways

a. internal transformation of individuals – 1 Thess 1:6

b. external growth of the church – Acts 9:31

G. The Gospel Truth is Rooted in Grace - vs 6c

1. Grace is at the very heart of the Gospel – Eph 2:8-9

2. the grace of God **in truth**; - carries the sense of genuineness

a. Is received by Humility – Pr 3:34; 1 Pet 5:5; Jas 4:6

b. Can be offered in vain - 2Co 6:1; Heb 12:5-6,15

H. The Gospel Truth Is Reported by People - vs 7-8

1. We are channels of the grace

a. Acts 1:8 - Spirit given to be witnesses

b. 1 Co 1:21 - people believed the message preached

c. Ro 10:14 - how can they believe in Him whom they have not heard

2. Epaphras brought news to Paul that they were being channels of God's grace

a. our dear fellow servant, - **sundoulos** - a co-slave, i.e. servitor or ministrant of the same master (human or divine):--fellow servant.

b. who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, - **diakonos** - an attendant, a waiter (at table or in other menial duties); specially, a Christian teacher and pastor (technically, a deacon or deaconess):--deacon, minister, servant.

c. who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.