

Sermon Notes Col. 1:1-14 Live with and for God 24/4/2022

Background. The letter to the Colossian Christian Church was not probably written by the Apostle Paul even though he uses some different language arising from his reasons for writing (see the personal references 1:1, 24; 2:1; 3:18). As the final verse indicates it was written while Paul was in prison, but in prison in Ephesus (AD 52-55 or 54-57) or in Rome (AD 60-61) is less clear. Paul probably had not established or visited this church. He has heard of their faith Christ Jesus and their love for each other enabled by the Spirit (i.e. God's love), but he is concerned that they are being led astray by some false teachers. He is concerned to remind the Colossian believers that they have been rescued from the dominion of darkness, brought into the kingdom of His Son having been redeemed and forgiven (1:13-14). They do not need to seek after deeper knowledge or special experiences, rather they have 'received Christ Jesus as Lord' (2:6a) and therefore are to 'continue to live in him' (2:6b). They have received 'fullness in Christ' having been 'raised with Christ' to live a new life in fellowship with and under the guidance of the risen Christ. Any one or any teaching that undermines their assurance of their new resurrected life in Christ is to be rejected.

Col. 1:1-14. Paul give thanks to God for the Colossians.

A. Our faith, love and hope – how firmly is it grounded?

1:1-7. Paul rejoices in the Colossians' faith, love and hope. He then reminds them of the basis of their faith, love and hope – the initial and ongoing work of the Triune God. Paul describes this work of God as the 'gospel' (the good news).

The gospel bears fruit as people understand God's grace and respond by putting their faith in Jesus Christ.

The Colossian believers show this gospel fruit by love toward others (v. 5, 7), enabled by the Spirit whom they love. The Spirit is the one who enables them to have faith (trust) in Jesus Christ and to live as his people (see 8-11).

Response/Reflection. What do we pray for others and ourselves? What does it mean to depend on the Spirit to enable us to love the triune God and others?

B. 1:9-14 Paul's constant prayer for them is that they live as followers of Christ.

Paul prays that God will do a number of things:

V. 9a. *'fill the company of believers with the knowledge of His will'.*

V. 9b. How? through the *'wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives'.*

V. 10a. With what result? (that is, what is the impact of the Spirit's work?) – *'so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way'*

V. 10b. [by] *'bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might'.*

V. 11. [Why?] (for what purpose?) *'so that you may have great endurance and patience, giving joyful thanks to the Father'.*

Further reasons for gratitude towards God

V. 12. *'who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his people in the kingdom of light' (God's eternal kingdom -home).*

Two further reminders of what God has done for us,

V. 13. Rescued us and brought us to be with Him, *'For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves'.*

and God has rescued us through His Son,

V. 14. *'in whom (The Son) we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins'.*

Response/Reflection. How would our prayer and our life change, if we made this our daily prayer for our church community and for each member?