
Sermon Notes

January 18, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

Gospel Power Colossians 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, ⁶ 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, ⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf ⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Paul's Ministry of Prayer

- ❖ Paul prays for his fellow believers even though he has never met them
 - Paul shows that we can minister directly to the spiritual well-being of other believers without knowing them
 - are you willing/interested in committing yourself to that kind of dynamic praying?
- ❖ Paul's prayer list is quite different from the kind of requests that are more frequently on our hearts and minds today
- ❖ Paul prays that others will experience the ongoing, penetrating power of the gospel as they appropriate more and more spiritual riches

What is the Gospel?

- ❖ Through Christ's sinless, sacrificial, substitutionary, atoning death, God
 - delivers us from the domain of darkness
 - transfers us into the kingdom of His beloved Son
 - transfers move us from one place to another
 - transfers require change
- ❖ offers us redemption, the forgiveness of sin

- ❖ Other synonyms for the gospel that Paul uses in this section
 - *the hope laid up for you in heaven* (v. 5)
 - *the word of truth* (v. 5)
 - *the grace of God in truth* (v. 6)
 - *the inheritance of the saints in light* (v. 12)

What Does the Gospel Require of Us?

- ❖ Faith
 - not BLIND faith
 - not a leap in the dark
 - being persuaded that something is true and trusting in it
 - living faith requires obedience
 - the distinction between saving faith and non-saving faith (James 2:14-26)
- ❖ Repentance
 - turning from evil
 - turning to God
 - an intent to serve God rather than self

Signs That the Gospel Has Taken Root in Us

- ❖ Genuine, saving faith inevitably leads to a changed life
 - it bears fruit
 - it spreads (reproduces)
- ❖ Though coming to God through faith in Jesus does not require “works”, it provokes or generates works
 - we will have the desire to be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding
 - we will desire to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
 - we will be strengthened with all power
 - we will give thanks to the Father

Personal Application

1. What changes has “gospel power” made in your life? What changes is it currently making within you?
2. Do you possess a desire to be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding? If not, why not?
3. Do you live your life in a manner worthy of the Lord (*i.e.* are you fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God)?