

## Communion Meditation – Colossians

Colossians 1.1-2

“Caring Enough to Write”

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

### Background

- Colosse sits about 100 miles east of Ephesus (trade route from Rome)
  - Few miles east of Church of Laodicea (last of 7 Revelation churches)
  - Church formed on Paul’s 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey (~ 55AD / 5 to 8 years earlier)
- Letter written from Rome ~61AD while Paul imprisoned
  - Emphasizing Christ’s divinity and role of faith & works in salvation

### Greeting

- **“an apostle”** ~ Handpicked spokesperson for God
- **“Jesus Christ”** ~ Savior / Messiah (“anointed one” **Is 61 / Lk 4**)
  - **“Jesus”** – **Mt 1.21b** ~ **“for He will save His people from their sins.”**
  - **“Christ”** – **Jn 1.41** ~ **“found the Messiah (which is translated, the Christ)”**
  - Gospels reflect this w/amazement / Epistles repeat as irrefutable fact
- **“and Timothy”** ~ convert from Lystra on 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey
- **“Grace to you and peace . . .”** ~ formal blessing

### “Caring Enough to Write”

- Formality of letter writing is largely lost in our time
  - Ronald Reagan was known for writing letters / 10,000 of them
  - Decades to a former teacher / *“love letters”* to his wife Nancy
- Most of us don’t write or even read letters anymore
  - Letters are now largely an appeal for \$ (exc: Field & Hearsh)
  - Cards have only names and dates on them / in the trash fairly quickly
- By contrast, Paul wrote letters of great & lasting significance
  - But it’s doubtful he knew their full importance & longevity
  - He wrote because he cared and sought to influence people

*“If there is one constant in the life of the counselor and those with whom he works, it is the reality of dullness of heart: the gospel amnesia in the dimming light of first love; the ‘spiritual cataracts’ from the wear and tear from the world that gradually – ever so innocently – blinds our eyes to the beckoning of the Master. We become engrossed in what we are doing. We turn from the Master to focus on the task, the project, the rushing about . . . we forget that we are human beings, not human doings.” – excerpt of year end letter from Field & Hearsh*